# Streambank Stewardship

## Directory of producer experiences along streams and creeks

# Acknowledgements

Saskatchewan Watershed Authority would like to thank the many agencies with which we have partnered to establish the demonstration projects featured in this publication including:

**Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada through**
- **Agricultural Environmental Stewardship Initiative**
- **Canadian Adaptation and Rural Development in Saskatchewan**
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- **Canada-Saskatchewan Agri-Food Innovation Fund**
- **National Soil and Water Conservation Program**
- **Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration**

**Canada Millennium Partnership Program**
**Canadian Wildlife Service**
**Ducks Unlimited Canada**
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**Government of Canada Habitat Stewardship Program for Species at Risk**
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**Saskatchewan Agriculture, Food and Rural Revitalization**
**Saskatchewan Environment through the Fish and Wildlife Development Fund**
**Saskatchewan Prairie Shores**
**Wildlife Habitat Canada**

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Most importantly, we extend our appreciation to over 150 landowners whose trust and hard work made these demonstration projects possible.

**Saskatchewan Watershed Authority**

Canada Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada Agricultural Environmental Stewardship Initiative

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# Introduction

## Riparian Management in Saskatchewan

Riparian areas are the transition zones between aquatic and upland areas. They have had an impact historically since they are linked to waterways, which were important for early transportation and settlement. Healthy riparian areas are defined as ecosystems which are able to perform their natural functions. They are characterized by deep rooted vegetation, diversity of plant species and age classes, stable banks and little bare soil. Riparian areas exhibiting these characteristics are able to function in nutrient and pesticide filtration, water energy dissipation and sediment transport and deposition.

Healthy riparian areas provide improved water quality, ground water protection, maximum forage production, recreation and wildlife habitat. Riparian areas are the critical link in source water protection. Riparian vegetation filter contaminants from the upland and prevent erosion from shorelines. They are a first line of defense in the protection of water quality.

In southern Saskatchewan, riparian areas are largely managed by agricultural producers. Therefore, agricultural practices such as cropping, grazing and haying represent some of the largest potential impacts on this important resource. With appropriate management, riparian areas can be used for agricultural production with little or no negative effect.

This directory will feature producers who manage for conservation of riparian habitat while viewing it as a valuable resource.

## The Prairie Stewardship Program

The Prairie Stewardship Program, coordinated by Saskatchewan Watershed Authority (SWA) in partnership with other agencies is a comprehensive approach to educating landowners, professionals and the general public about the function and management of riparian areas in Saskatchewan.

The main objective of the program is to work in cooperation with landowners, government and conservation agencies to increase awareness of riparian issues. To accomplish this goal, the Prairie Stewardship Program began the process of providing tools which can be used by landowners, extension agrologists, biologists, educators and other stakeholders.

Riparian management demonstration projects were first established in Saskatchewan in 1994 by the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration. Since then, over 150 riparian demonstration projects have been established by the Saskatchewan Watershed Authority (SWA) in cooperation with other agencies. These projects demonstrate the impact of working cooperatively with landowners.

104-05384/

## Demonstration Projects

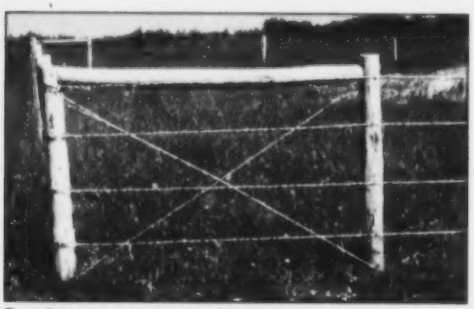
Riparian management demonstration projects established by SWA have been conducted under a wide variety of circumstances and funding arrangements. However in all cases, projects are producer driven. The role of SWA has been to provide technical and administrative assistance. Landowners voluntarily agree to management changes. Management changes are designed to fit the operational and production needs of the producer and are largely designed by the producers themselves. Prairie Stewards have taken ownership of these demonstration sites and are proud to showcase how agriculture is compatible with good environmental stewardship. Some projects date back to 1994 and many of them are still in implementation as producers work towards change.

Demonstration projects in this directory can be broken into three categories:

- *Riparian Grazing Management*

Riparian areas are important components of pastures for providing both forage and water. Impact of cattle on riparian areas is determined by duration, season, intensity and frequency of use. The management techniques used to maintain healthy riparian areas varies with each particular situation but usually include remote water development, rotational grazing or deferred grazing. Exclusion fencing, completely eliminating cattle access to riparian areas, is only used in special cases or where such fencing meets the needs of the producer.

Water development can reduce cattle pressure on riparian areas and improve distribution



Fencing can create grazing management systems which provide rest to riparian areas

- *Perennial forage establishment*

Cropping practices impact riparian areas by increasing runoff and sedimentation. Riparian areas can be preserved in healthy condition by maintaining adequate amounts of perennial cover surrounding watercourses. This can be done by buffer strips (bands of perennial cover surrounding riparian areas) or by converting cropped marginal land into permanent cover.

- *Corral/wintering site modification*

Riparian areas have historically been convenient locations for corrals and wintering facilities for cattle operations. Modifying or relocating facilities can usually mitigate impacts on riparian areas. Common modifications include berm construction, exclusion fencing and site relocation. As a rule of thumb, any projects involving modification of wintering sites have to be permitted by Saskatchewan Agriculture, Food and Rural Revitalization through the Agricultural Operations Act.

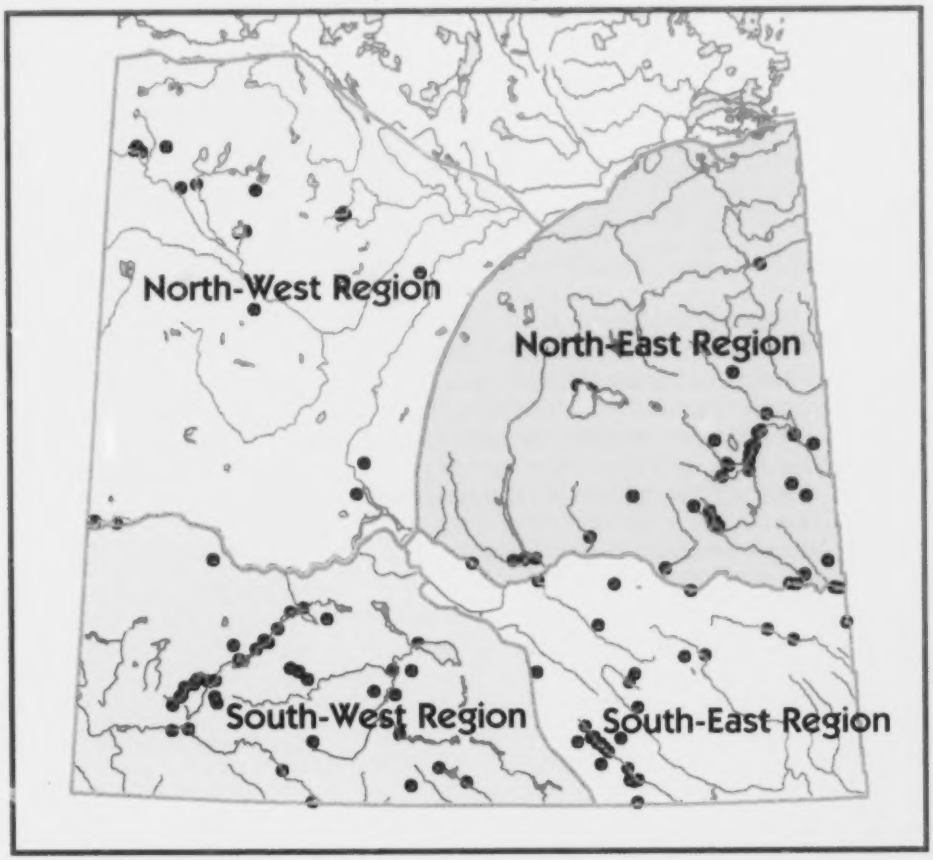
Corral relocation and manure management protects runoff water quality

## How to use this Directory

The purpose of this directory is to provide extension agrologists, biologists, educators, producer groups and the general public access to the many landowner demonstration projects SWA has been involved with since 1994. Landowner cooperators in these projects have agreed to have their operations used for field days, media reports and individual consultation. Use of these demonstration sites to date has been highly successful. In 2002 alone, over 24 field days were mounted reaching over 550 producers and professionals.

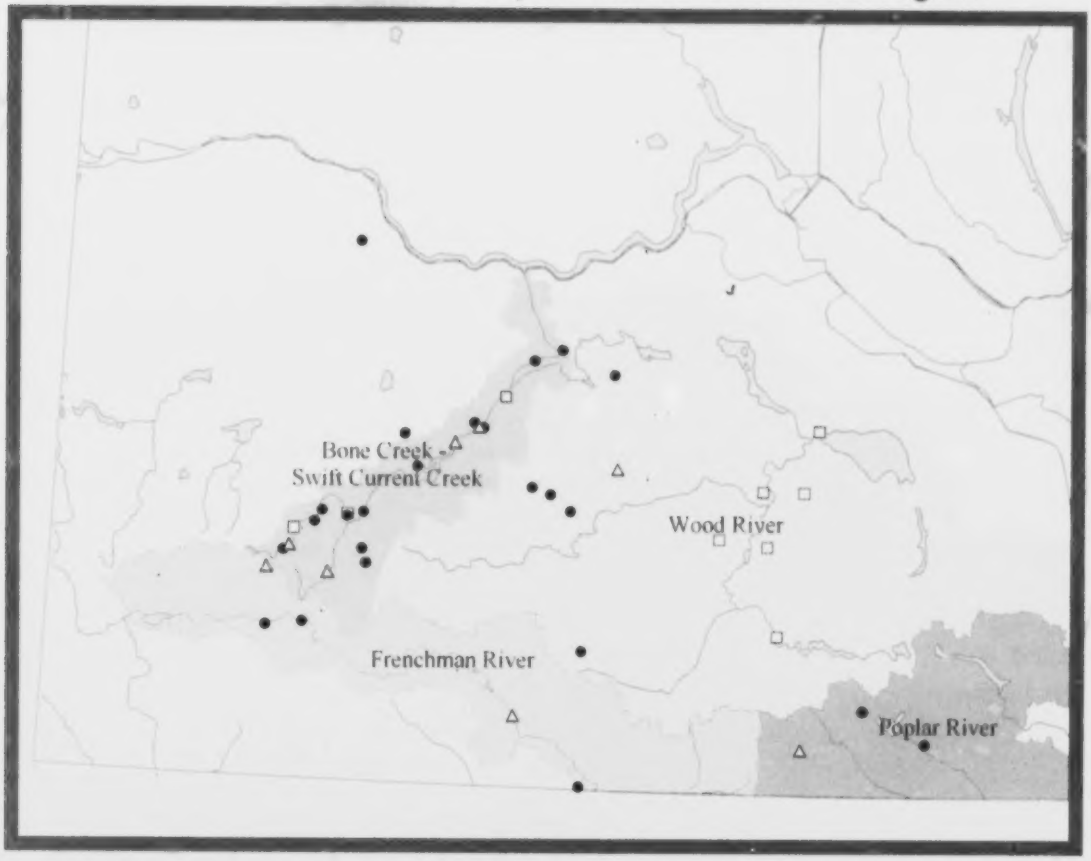
Projects in this directory are organized into northeast, southeast, northwest and southwest regions and then listed by watershed. Much of SWA's extension work has taken a community watershed approach to targeting demonstration projects. This approach allows the maximum effect on riparian health by having impact along an entire watercourse. Maps at the beginning of each watershed section show the location of each project. Name of the cooperating landowner is given. The locations and descriptions of these projects can be used to plan field days or media reports. Actual contact of landowners can be made through SWA by calling 787-0726.

Locations of Riparian Management Project



# Southwest Region

## Riparian Demonstration Projects in the Southwest region




● Grazing Management ■ Forage Seeding ▲ Wintering Site

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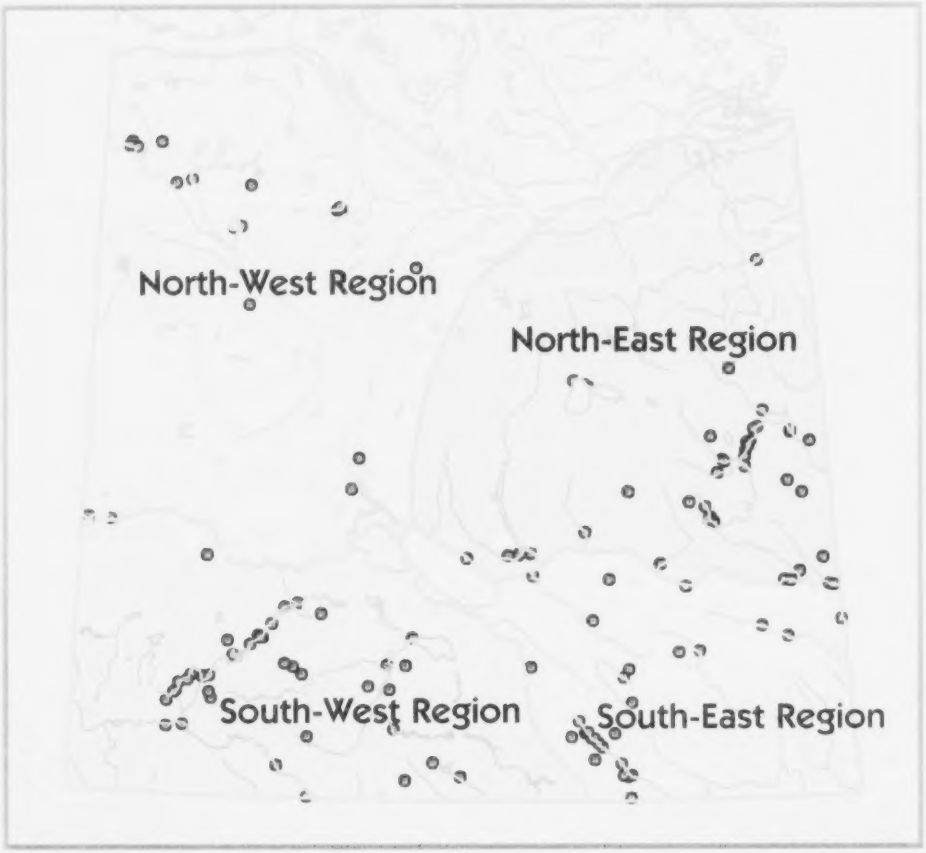
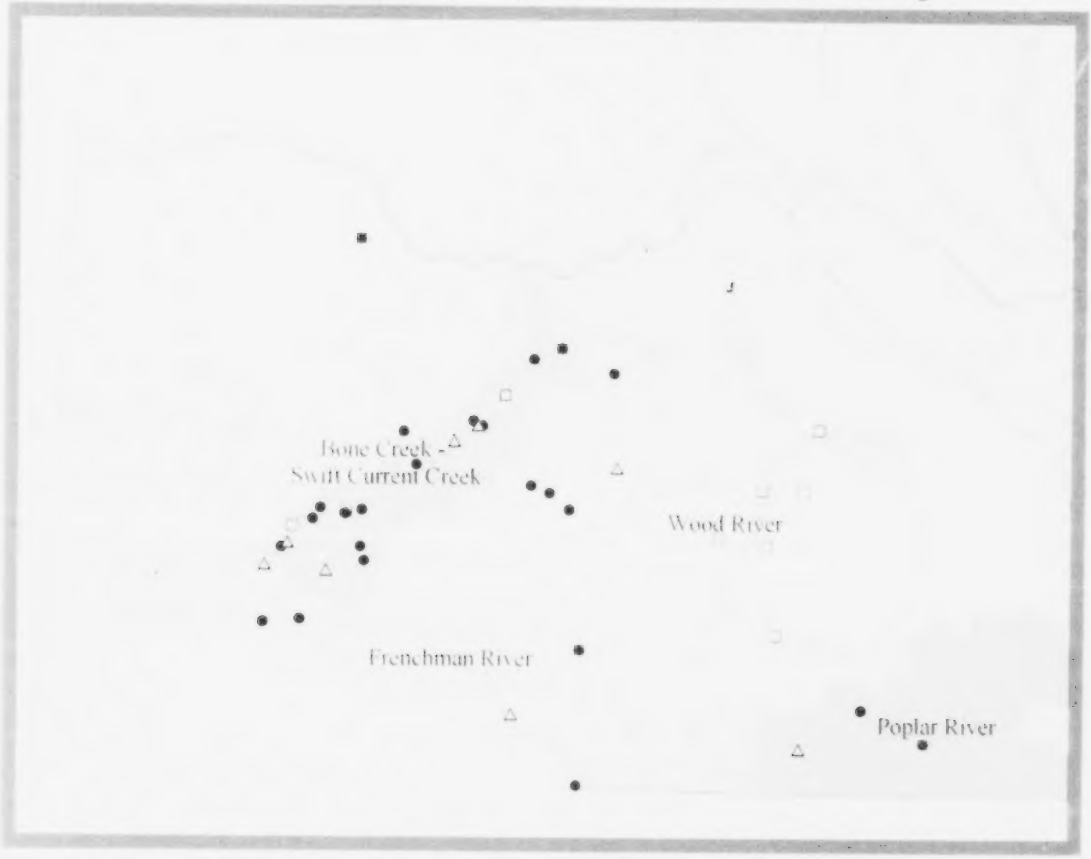
Locations of Riparian Management Project



# Southwest Region

Riparian Demonstration Projects in the Southwest region




● Grazing Management ■ Forage Seeding ▲ Wintering Site

# Swift Current Creek / Bone Creek Watershed

## McNabb Ranch Ltd.

*R.M.:* **79**

*Project Components:*
**Corral Relocation**

*Project Description:*
Jason and Karmen McNabb's wintering grounds for backgrounding calves were previously located on a tributary of the Bone Creek. The McNabbs relocated their wintering site to an upland area where the manure could be prevented from entering the tributary. This involved developing a new well, constructing new corrals and a berm to control runoff. Manure from the new corrals is spread on nearby forage lands. As part of the permitting process with SAFRR, the McNabbs developed a manure management plan that determined appropriate applications sites and rates. The McNabbs projected a yearly production of 8,078 pounds of manure nitrogen and require 43 acres a year for spreading. A total of 540 acres of forage were identified for spreading, providing more than enough land since a three year application frequency is expected.

Management changes at the Mcnabb Ranch will protect the Bone Creek

Healthy riparian areas along the Bone Creek on the McNabb Ranch

## Ken Billington

*R.M.:* **79**

*Project Components:*
**Grazing management, Water development, Forage seeding**

*Project Description:*
Ken Billington ranches along Rock Creek. To defer grazing pressure on the riparian area and improve productivity of his native grasses, Ken required more early spring pasture. Fifty acres of cultivated land were seeded to tame grass and 1.5 miles of fence was constructed to create a spring pasture. A remote watering system finished off the grazing system. Ken should see greater productivity on his pasture and improved riparian health along Rock Creek.

## Vince Stevenson

*R.M.:* **79**

*Project Components:*
**Corral modification**

*Project Description:*
Vince Stevenson ranches along Rock Creek. Vince's corrals were located on the flood plain of Rock Creek, potentially causing water quality concerns from surface runoff. The corrals were relocated from the riparian area to the adjacent upland. This included building a new calving shelter, new water bowls, trenching of waterlines and electrical wiring and slab fencing. The new corrals provide excellent conditions for cattle and opportunities for expansion. As part of the relocation process, Vince was permitted under the Agricultural Operations Act. Vince also implemented a grazing project. Two upland fields and one riparian pasture allow Vince to defer grazing from the riparian field until later in the season. A moveable solar pump provides water to each of the pastures.

# Swift Current Creek / Bone Creek Watershed

## Greg Reutz

*R.M.:* **109**

*Project Components:*
**Grazing management, Buffer seeding, Water development, Forage seeding**

*Project Description:*
Greg and Joanne Reutz operate a mixed farm on 12 quarters south of Gull Lake. In order to increase their cow herd and protect the Bone Creek, they implemented a project which involved seeding 170 acres of cropland to pasture and buffer strips, constructing two miles of fence and developing two solar watering sites. The additional fencing restricts cattle access to the creek and allows Greg to rotate his cows through five pastures.

Greg Reutz on his farm near Gull Lake

## Don Lundberg

*R.M.:* **79**

*Project Components:*
**Buffer strip, Forage seeding**

*Project Description:*
Don Lundberg ranches near Eastend. To protect riparian health along a tributary of Bone Creek, Don seeded 40 acres of buffer strips. These buffer strips will reduce soil erosion and improve water quality by filtering runoff from cultivated fields. An additional 40 acres of perennial forage will increase upland perennial cover in the watershed for wildlife habitat and provide a source of forage.

## Don and Kay Aldag

*R.M.:* **109**

*Project Components:*
**Buffer Seeding**

*Project Description:*
Don and Kay Aldag of Gull Lake decided to seed approximately 55 acres of forage as a buffer strip along Bone Creek. Land along creeks often produce poor crops due to soils, slope or flooding. Profit margins can sometimes be increased by converting these marginal areas into a perennial forage. The buffer strips on the Aldag operation will reduce soil erosion, improve water quality and provide a source of forage.

## Mark and Mike Klink

*R.M.:* **138**

*Project Components:*
**Grazing management, Water development**

*Project Description:*
Mark and Mike Klink ranch along the Swift Current Creek south of Gull Lake. To better utilize their native prairie and riparian areas, they implemented a grazing management system. Fencing was used to control when and how the pasture was grazed. Three miles of fence allows his pasture to be grazed rotationally. A watering system was necessary to provide water while improvements are expected in the health of the riparian areas.

Bone Creek on the Aldag Farm

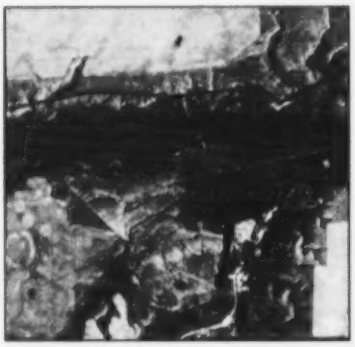
# Swift Current Creek / Bone Creek Watershed

## Daryll Meyers

*R.M.:* **109**

*Project Components:*
**Grazing management, Buffer seeding, Exclusion fencing, Water development, Forage seeding**

*Project Description:*
Daryll Myers farms near Shaunavon along Bone Creek. Because of the swampy nature of the creek, Daryll decided to exclude grazing from the creek. The creek was fenced out, then a grazing system was completed by developing two remote watering sites and seeding 20 acres of tame forage. An additional 20 acres of buffer strips were seeded to protect the banks of the creek from erosion. Because fishing with his son is important to him, Daryll has been able to show how farming and conservation go hand in hand.



Exclusion fencing reduced cattle impact on the Meyer Ranch

Native prairie on the Wolfater Ranch

## Ron and Roberta Wolfater

*R.M.:* **109**

*Project Components:*
**Water Development**

*Project Description:*
Ron and Roberta Wolfater ranch in the Cypress Hills near Eastend and defer grazing on a riparian field along Bone Creek. The Wolfaters decided to improve their grazing management by developing an additional water source in their pasture. They constructed a new dugout, fenced it and installed a wind powered pump. This new water source improved cattle distribution and the condition of their riparian areas and native prairie.

## Robert and Leanne Gilbert

*R.M.:* **110**

*Project Components:*
**Water development**

*Project Description:*
Robert and Leanne Gilbert ranch along Bone Creek. Offsite watering can benefit both riparian areas and cattle. The creek was fenced by the local wildlife federation and access for anglers was created. The Gilberts established a new watering site away from the creek and eliminated cattle access throughout the year. Power was run to the site and a new waterbowl installed.

Robert and Leanne Gilbert decided to become Streambank Stewards

# Swift Current Creek / Bone Creek Watershed

## Norman Gowan

*R.M.:* **137**

*Project Components:*
**Grazing management, Exclusion fencing**

*Project Description:*
Norman Gowan ranches near Swift Current. Norman has both native prairie and riparian areas in the same pasture. Both of these areas require rest from grazing during a portion of the growing season. In Norman's case an extra mile of fence was required to rotationally graze the native prairie on his ranch and exclude grazing from a portion of the creek.

Swift Current Creek on the Gowan Ranch

## Bryce Burnett

*R.M.:* **137**

*Project Components:*
**Grazing management, Water development, Forage seeding**

*Project Description:*
With rotational grazing systems, providing water for every field can often be a challenge. Bryce Burnett tackled this problem by installing a shallow pipeline to provide water away from the Swift Current Creek. This allowed Bryce to get cattle away from the creek and onto the upland pasture. One mile of fence and 160 acres of new forage finished off this grazing system. By carefully designing his grazing rotation Bryce was able to maintain the condition of riparian areas along a tributary into Swift Current Creek and optimize his forage production.

## Reg Parsons

*R.M.:* **137**

*Project Components:*
**Grazing management, Water development**

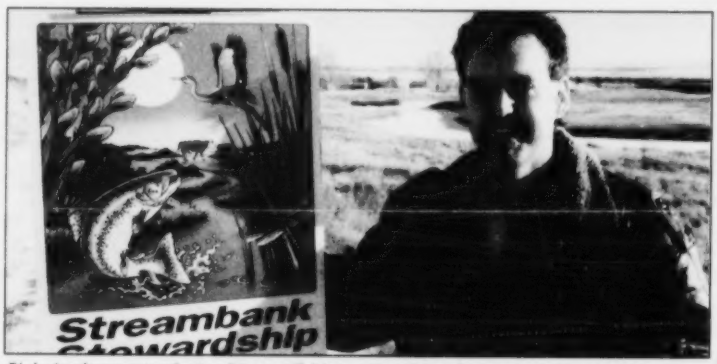
*Project Description:*
Reg Parsons traditionally wintered his cattle along the Swift Current Creek. This arrangement was inconvenient for Reg and presented water quality concerns for downstream users. Reg developed an alternate winter watering site to prevent cattle watering from the river.

## Rick Anderson

*R.M.:* **137**

*Project Components:*
**Buffer seeding**

*Project Description:*
Because of his love for wildlife, Rick Anderson planted trees and shrubs along the Swift Current Creek near his home. Saskatoon, poplar, Scotch pine, carraganas, willows, sea buckthorn, hawthorn and burr oak were planted. Plastic mulch and a drip irrigation system were used to protect some of the saplings. The trees and shrubs should aid in stabilizing the streambanks and improving water quality. The PFRA shelterbelt center was an important partner in this project and provided seedlings.




Rick Anderson undertook an ambitious streambank restoration project

# Swift Current Creek / Bone Creek Watershed

## Mark Habshied

*R.M.:* **137**

*Project Components:*
**Grazing management, Exclusion fencing, Water development, Corral modification**

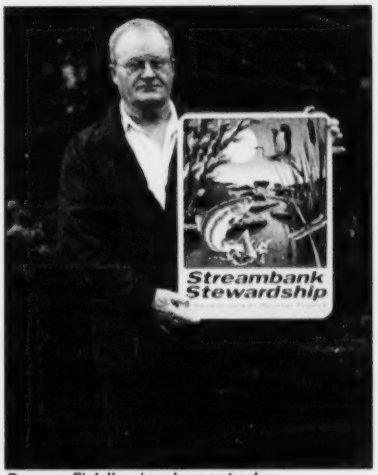
*Project Description:*
Mark Habshied produces hay and runs cattle near Duncarin Dam. In cooperation with SWA, Mark undertook a corral modification project that also improved his grazing management. First, cattle access to the Swift Current Creek was restricted by the installation of corral fencing. Next, a watering system was installed for winter use, however this system also provides water for his summer pasture and so improves his grazing management. Mark also installed a solar pump for summer use in his pasture.

## Dennis Fiddler

*R.M.:* **138**

*Project Components:*
**Grazing management, Forage seeding**

*Project Description:*
Dennis Fiddler of Webb deferred grazing pressure on his native prairie and riparian areas by seeding down 80 acres of cultivated land to tame forage and used this area as a spring pasture. A solar water pump at a dugout provides a water source for this tame pasture.



Darren Fiddler implemented a deferred grazing system

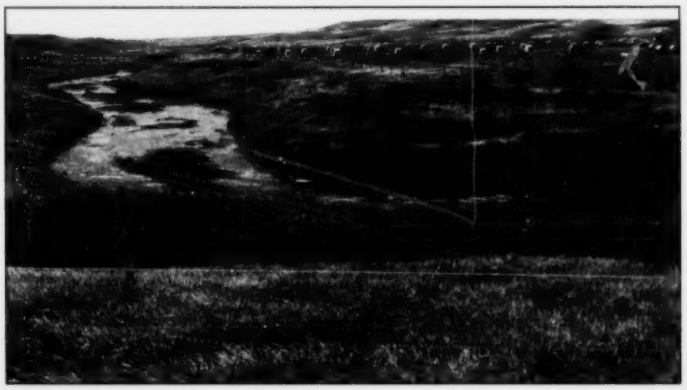
Dennis Fiddler was proud of the work he did to maintain riparian areas

## Darren Fiddler

*R.M.:* **138**

*Project Components:*
**Grazing management, Forage seeding**

*Project Description:*
Pasture management can often be improved by grazing different types of grass during their appropriate season of use. Darren Fiddler seeded 120 acres of cultivated land to tame grass. He decided to use this grass first thing in the spring in his grazing rotation since the tame grass greens up earlier. Later in the season Darren's native prairie and riparian areas are grazed giving them enough time to recover from the previous year's grazing. Keeping riparian areas in good shape is especially important in the dry southwest where Darren ranches, because these areas are an especially important source of forage in dry years.


Swift Current Creek on the Fiddler ranch.

# Swift Current Creek / Bone Creek Watershed

## Tim Scherger

*R.M.:* **166**

*Project Components:*
**Grazing management, Water development, Forage seeding**

*Project Description:*
When Tim Scherger decided to modify his management practices to protect his native prairie and his portion of the Swift Current Creek, he looked at all the options available to him as a producer. Every operation is unique and no single management solution will work in every situation. Tim settled on a combination of seeding tame grass, solar water development and exclusion fencing along the creek.

## Mark Teulon

*R.M.:* **166**

*Project Components:*
**Forage seeding**

*Project Description:*
Mark Teulon farms near Waldeck. Mark seeded 30 acres of forage on wetland and upland areas that were previously cropped. Seeding to perennial forage has both production and environmental benefits. Mark should be able to benefit from improved soil condition, reduced salinity, and removal of marginal acres from production.

Brian Hanel at the Flying K Red Angus Ranch

## Brian and Christine Hanel

*R.M.:* **137**

*Project Components:*
**Water development**

*Project Description:*
Brian and Christine Hanel operate the Flying K Red Angus Ranch along the Swift Current Creek. Brian fenced off an 80 acre pasture from the creek and installed a remote watering system. This pasture allows him to rotationally graze and maintain condition of his native prairie. Brian also decided to try and reduce the impact of his wintering area on the opposite side of the creek. A winter watering system was installed to reduce pressure on the creek and encourage manure deposition throughout the pasture. Slab fencing was also installed to provide shelter.

# Noteku / Wood River / Poplar River Watersheds

## Noteku Wildlife Federation

The Noteku Branch of the Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation cooperated with 18 farmers in the Gravelbourg area to increase perennial cover in the Wood River Watershed. Over 1,700 acres of forage was seeded on cropland to reduce erosion and provide wildlife habitat. The project has been supported by both cattlemen and cereal grain farmers. Gaetan Piche and Henri Lizee coordinated the project. Individual producers involved include:

Ken Packet
Darcy Packet
Kory Packet
Troy Packet
Garth Gingell
Wayne Rotheister
Mark Gosselin
Donald Greene
Byron Richmond
Dave Engel
Wilfred Kohlemberg
Steve Bekker
Jean Paul Monvoison
Gaetan Piche
Doug Mann
Marc Ponteaux
Richard Gehl
Lionel Tremblay
Gerry Andries

## Jason Switzer

*R.M.:* **74**

*Project Components:*
**Grazing management, Forage seeding**

*Project Description:*
Jason Switzer ranches near Mankota. To improve the condition of his 1300 acres of native grass, Jason seeded tame forage on 240 acres of cultivated land. Fencing was set up in such a way that Jason could use the principle of a riparian field to improve the condition of some of his stream areas. A riparian field was established by fencing a riparian area within a single paddock in a rotational grazing system. Rest is provided to riparian areas when that particular paddock is rested. With this type of grazing system Jason should see increased productivity over time.

## Roger Kress

*R.M.:* **46**

*Project Components:*
**Grazing management**

*Project Description:*
Management changes to improve pasture productivity and riparian area condition do not have to be complicated. Sometimes all that is needed is a single fence to implement a rotational grazing system. This is the approach Roger Kress took on his operation near Mankota. A half mile of new crossfence will allow him to rotationaly graze his native pasture and defer grazing on riparian areas until later in the year. The riparian areas will benefit from being grazed in the summer as opposed to the spring when the soils are soft. This system also provides a period of rest from grazing for Roger's spring pasture.

Gaetan Piche and the late Henri Lizee coordinated the Noteku Wildlife Federation reseeding project

# Noteku / Wood River / Poplar River Watersheds

## Tim and Shauna Wagner

*R.M.:* **12**

*Project Components:*
**Grazing management, Water development, Forage seeding**

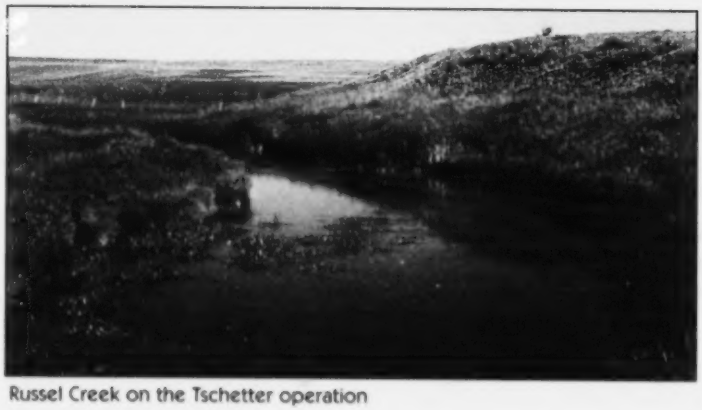
*Project Description:*
Tim and Shauna Wagner ranch along Girard Creek near Fife Lake. To implement the pasture development plan, tame pasture was seeded, a shallow well and pipeline buried, and half a mile of electric fence constructed. These improvements will help increase the carrying capacity and provide a secure water source.

## Ray Prefontaine

*R.M.:* **43**

*Project Components:*
**Grazing management, Exclusion fencing Water development**

*Project Description:*
Along Hay Meadow Creek, Ray Prefontaine installed temporary exclusion fencing, constructed two cattle crossings, and developed a remote watering site. Ray's pasture improvements still allow him to use his riparian areas but controls the grazing to a sustainable level. The addition of cattle crossings solved some of Ray's distribution problems and led to overall better pasture management. Ray was the 2003 TESA (The Environmental Stewardship Award) winner.



Russel Creek on the Tschetter operation

## Don and Beth Semeniuk

*R.M.:* **10**

*Project Components:*
**Corral relocation**

*Project Description:*
Don and Beth Semeniuk of Rockglen have their yardsite built along a tributary of the West Poplar River. In fall, 2001 they undertook a project to modify their winter feeding practices. Cattle were traditionally wintered in corrals where two intermittent creeks converge. This location had a shallow water table and was near two dugouts and so presented water quality concerns. The existing corral facilities were dismantled and relocated further away from the creeks. Two runoff diversion/containment dikes were constructed to contain surface runoff from the corrals and the winter feeding area. The two existing dugouts were fenced to exclude cattle and a wet well constructed to provide a water source for one new winter water site. This project allows the Semeniuks to make improvements to their wintering facilities while at the same time protecting water quality for themselves and downstream users.

## Lionel Tschetter

*R.M.:* **107**

*Project Components:*
**Grazing management, Exclusion fencing, Water development, Forage seeding**

*Project Description:*
Lionel and Tilly Tschetter own a mixed farm along Russel Creek, south of Neville. Brook trout are present and the Tschetters looked at options for protecting the creek. Tame forages were seeded on 280 acres of adjacent uplands to provide early season grazing and reduce pressure on the riparian area. A new shallow well was developed and a shallow pipeline installed to supply two new water troughs. Additional cross fencing allowed the implementation of a once over rotational grazing system. Dramatic improvements have been made in the condition of the riparian area.

# Noteku / Wood River / Poplar River Watersheds

## Andrew and Rod Murphy

*R.M.:* **106**

*Project Components:*
**Grazing management, Water development, Forage seeding**

*Project Description:*
With multiple pastures, it is not always necessary to develop a water source in each field. One solution is to use a laneway. This is the approach the Murphy's took on their ranch along Russel Creek. A narrowly fenced corridor leads cattle to a solar powered water source from several tame and one native pasture. The water is pumped from a wet well installed next to the creek and is pumped 75 feet to the trough by a solar piston pump. This water and fencing arrangement, in conjunction with 32 acres of new pasture, set up a grazing system that will benefit both the Murphy's and the Russel Creek.

## Rod Gamble

*R.M.:* **106**

*Project Components:*
**Grazing management, Water development**

*Project Description:*
Rod Gamble ranches along Russell Creek in southwest Saskatchewan. Rod decided to implement a planned grazing system along his portion of the creek. Two remote watering sites and one mile of fence were needed to implement a six paddock rotational grazing system. The water sites were installed by a shallow buried pipeline. Having six paddocks gives Rod control and flexibility in his grazing management. He can decide when and where he wants to graze. For example, on paddocks containing riparian areas, he can delay grazing in the spring when banks are soft and easily damaged.

Rod Murphy built a laneway along Russel Creek

# South Saskatchewan Watershed

## Jason Jackson

*R.M.:* **168**

*Project Components:*
**Grazing management**

*Project Description:*
Jason Jackson ranches near the headwaters of the Miry Creek near Cabri. Since cattle were typically spending too much time in the riparian area, a managed grazing system was implemented in 1993. Two new fences were constructed which resulted in 860 acres of pasture being divided into five paddocks. Water is piped to a trough from a well and cattle access this area through an alleyway. Jason has found that rotational grazing has improved forage production. Jason was the 2000 TESA (The Environmental Stewardship Award) winner.

## Dean Simonson

*R.M.:* **255**

*Project Components:*
**Grazing management, Water development, Forage seeding**

*Project Description:*
Dean Simonson farms and raises cattle along a creek which runs into Lake Diefenbaker upstream of Gardiner Dam. When Dean decided to turn a quarter section north of his yard into pasture, Dean cooperated with SWA to establish a grazing system. An old CN dam creates a large wetland in the center of the pasture which provides a reliable water source. The remainder of the quarter was seeded to tame forage and divided into three paddocks. A solar water pump provides water for the two south paddocks. Dean's project shows how pasture development and good stewardship of riparian areas can go together.

# South Saskatchewan Watershed

## Trevor Simonson

*R.M.:* **284**

*Project Components:*
**Grazing management, Water development, Forage seeding**

*Project Description:*
Trevor Simonson farms, raises cattle and runs a corral cleaning business near Glenside. As part of his riparian management project, Trevor seeded a quarter section of cropland to grass. A large slough at the north end of this quarter is part of a long chain of wetlands that usually run in the spring. Trevor built a dugout adjacent to this slough to act as a reliable water source. The quarter was then split into three fields to allow rotational grazing. By implementing a rotational grazing system, Trevor is insuring the health of his wetland and ultimately his own water supply.

## Paul and Vivian Letkeman

*R.M.:* **231**

*Project Components:*
**Grazing management**

*Project Description:*
Paul and Vivian Letkeman moved to the Leaning Tree Ranch on the South Saskatchewan River in 1973. The Leaning Tree is both a working and guest ranch. In order to maintain the beautiful riverbank, the Letkemans graze their riparian banks rotationally. By providing periods of rest, the riparian areas can recover from grazing. The Leaning Tree Ranch is a good example of how agriculture and the environment can work together to be both profitable and sustainable.

## Orest Gresiuk

*R.M.:* **463**

*Project Components:*
**Grazing management, Water development**

*Project Description:*
Orest Gresiuk runs 30 cow calf pairs near Duck Lake in pasture that includes potholes and riparian areas. A six paddock rotational grazing system was implemented to improve production and reduce cattle impact on streambanks. Implementation of the grazing system required 3.5 miles of fence, a low level crossing, and a dugout with a solar pump. The grazing system seems to be making handling of the cattle easier as well as improving wildlife habitat.

## Barry Cocks

*R.M.:* **261**

*Project Components:*
**Grazing management, Water development, Forage seeding**

*Project Description:*
Barry Cocks traditionally wintered his cattle along the Red Deer River. This wintering site was inconvenient and a hazard to cattle. Barry tackled this problem by developing an alternate winter watering site so he could avoid having to water cattle directly from the river. He also seeded 40 acres of forage to defer grazing from the pasture adjacent to the river. The water source consists of a shallow well and solar powered pump housed in an insulated shack. A propane heater keeps the trough from freezing. This new water source eliminates the necessity of opening a water hole and the risk of losing animals through the ice.

Orest Gresiuk undertook a riparian stewardship project near Duck Lake

# Frenchman River Watershed

## Pat Hayes

*R.M.:* **17**

*Project Components:*
**Corral relocation**

*Project Description:*
Pat Hayes ranches and backgrounds calves along the Frenchman River. Recognizing potential problems with runoff from his feedlot into the river, Pat decided to undertake a corral relocation projection. Pat installed a new water source and pipeline, and he constructed a berm to contain runoff. Pat's corral relocation project demonstrates how producers can ensure the security of their own water supply and that of downstream users.

## Armstrong Bros.

*R.M.:* **49**

*Project Components:*
**Grazing management, Water development**

*Project Description:*
Lee and Marty Armstrong implemented a riparian grazing management plan on their ranch along Conglomerate Creek. As part of the plan, a new water development took grazing pressure off the creek. Since cattle usually prefer to drink from a trough, completely excluding grazing from a creek is often unnecessary. Simply improving distribution and providing periods of rest for riparian areas can go a long way.

## Hal Topham

*R.M.:* **49**

*Project Components:*
**Grazing management, Water development**

*Project Description:*
Hal Topham ranches along the Frenchman River near Eastend. In the past, Hal's cattle watered out of the river all winter. In order to improve the condition of his riparian area, Hal installed a livestock watering trough away from the river and constructed 0.1 miles of fence. Now, because of the fence, livestock are only allowed access to the river and surrounding riparian field for a limited time in the fall. They now drink out of the trough throughout the rest of the winter.

## Dwayne and Jaime Morvik

*R.M.:* **49**

*Project Components:*
**Grazing management, Water development**

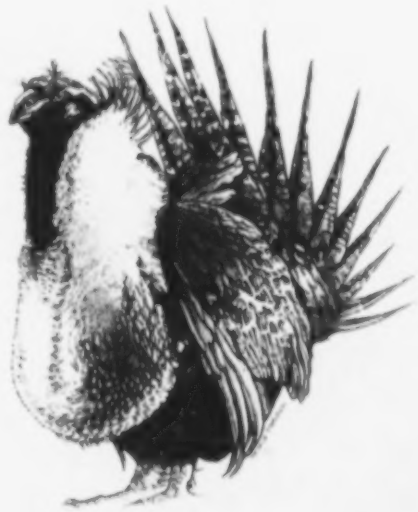
*Project Description:*
Dwane and Jaime Morvik raise sheep in the Frenchman River Valley near Eastend. On their ranch, prairie and riparian areas near the river were suffering due to excessive trampling, and forages further from the water source were being underutilized. To make improvements, the Morviks installed almost one mile of 1.5 inch PVC pipe, an electric pump, and three troughs. This water distribution demonstration project has allowed the Morviks to control access to the river and improve the condition of the riparian areas.

## Bruce and Brad Dixon

*R.M.:* **17**

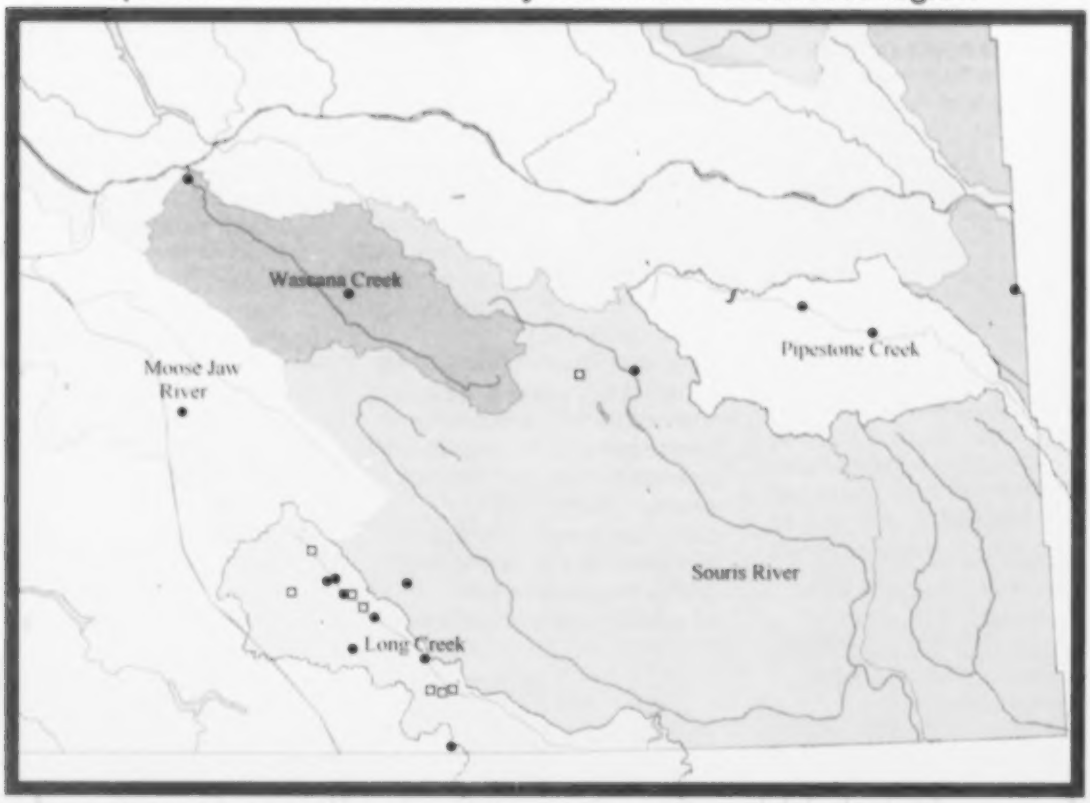
*Project Components:*
**Water development**

*Project Description:*
Bruce and Brad Dixon run Diamond T Ranches near Val Marie in the Frenchman River Valley. The Dixons had been watering calves through the winter from a shallow well, but this well collapsed and they were faced with watering the calves from the river. A new well was constructed so the calves would not have to be watered from the river. This alternate water source should help maintain the health of Frenchman River and provide good quality water for Bruce and Brad's cattle.



# Southeast Region

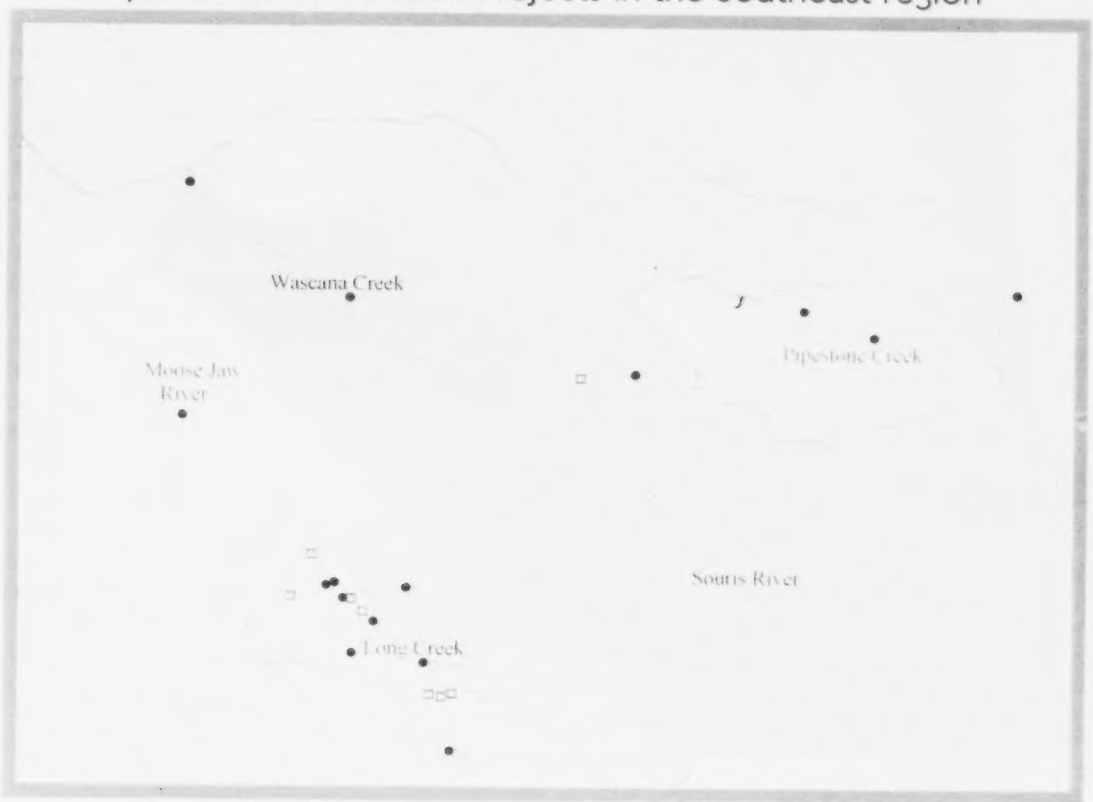
Riparian Demonstration Projects in the Southeast region




● Grazing Management ■ Forage Seeding ▲ Wintering Site

# Southeast Region

Riparian Demonstration Projects in the Southeast region




● Grazing Management ■ Forage Seeding ▲ Wintering Site

# Long Creek Watershed

## Jim Bouchard

*R.M.:* **38**

*Project Components:*
**Grazing management, Forage seeding**

*Project Description:*
Often all that is required to improve productivity and health of riparian areas is to provide rest from grazing in the spring. Jim Bouchard decided to do this on his pasture along Long Creek. Fifty new acres of tame pasture and a mile of fence provides Jim forage for the early spring and helps keep cattle off the creek until later in the year. Deferring grazing off the creek will also benefit the native grass which grows along the creek, leading to greater forage production and more grazing.

## Neil Evert

*R.M.:* **7**

*Project Components:*
**Forage seeding**

*Project Description:*
Neil Evert of Tribune seeded approximately 250 acres of tame forage in the Long Creek watershed. While increasing his forage base, Neil is contributing to cleaner water and more wildlife habitat in his community. The health of the Long Creek watershed can partly be measured by the percentage of land which is in perennial cover.

## Todd Persson

*R.M.:* **7**

*Project Components:*
**Grazing management, Forage seeding, Water development**

*Project Description:*
Todd Person improved his pasture management and the health of the Long Creek watershed by investing in some range improvements. By investing in a bit of fencing, water development and extra tame pasture, Todd went a long way to improve his grazing rotation.

## Harmiena Thomas

*R.M.:* **7**

*Project Components:*
**Forage seeding**

*Project Description:*
Harmiena Thomas farms along Long Creek near Weyburn. She seeded 50 acres of tame forage along the creek to both provide forage and prevent erosion. Buffer strips of perennial forage will stop the formation of rills and gullies and protect Harmienas' cropland from soil erosion.

## Walter Freidrich

*R.M.:* **7**

*Project Components:*
**Forage seeding**

*Project Description:*
Walter Freidrich undertook a project along a tributary of Long Creek near Oungre. He seeded 170 acres of perennial forage along an area of the creek which had previously been cropped. A mile and a half of electric fence was needed to convert this area to permanent pasture. By changing the land use along this creek, Walter is not only expanding the capacity of his beef operation but providing clean water and wildlife habitat for society at large.

## Phillip Wimmer

*R.M.:* **8**

*Project Components:*
**Forage seeding**

*Project Description:*
In the hills of the Missouri Couteau, it is often profitable to seed marginal farmland to perennial cover. Phillip Wimmer seeded 160 acres of tame grass to expand the forage base for his commercial cow-calf operation. Since this land is adjacent to Ducks Unlimited property, which is also in perennial cover, a larger "block" of habitat has been created for wildlife. The increased perennial cover in the Long Creek watershed will also improve water quality.

# Long Creek Watershed

## Lomond PFRA Pasture

*R.M.:* **37**

*Project Components:*
**Grazing management**

*Project Description:*
It is not only private landowners who have to do their part for good stewardship, the government has to help out too. The PFRA developed a grazing management plan for the protection of riparian areas on the Lomond community pasture along Long Creek. One 50 acre field was idled and sheep were used to control leafy spurge. In another field, an 800 acre riparian pasture was established. Water was provided by a shallow buried pipeline from a well sunk near the creek. The new water source powered by a solar pump reduces grazing pressure on the riparian areas.

Streambanks are revegetating after management changes on the Lomond PFRA pasture

## Victor Bert

*R.M.:* **38**

*Project Components:*
**Buffer Seeding, Forage seeding**

*Project Description:*
Both the Long Creek and one of its tributaries flows through Victor Bert's land near Radville. This land between these two waterways had been under annual crop rotation. Victor seeded 150 of these acres to perennial forage. This will reduce soil from eroding into the streams where it can affect fish habitat and reduce stream depth. Victor may also benefit if this area floods in the spring, because it could produce a better forage crop, whereas in the past, flooding might have been an obstacle to seeding in the spring.

## Emile and Paul Carles

*R.M.:* **38**

*Project Components:*
**Forage seeding**

*Project Description:*
Emile Carles runs a mixed farm in the Radville area of the Missouri Coteau. He wanted to make better use of his existing tame forage stands so he could defer grazing on his native prairie. To better use his tame forages, Emile installed a solar-powered water pump. Deferring grazing on native prairie means these plants will get through their critical growing stage before being grazed.

## Paul Chirpen

*R.M.:* **38**

*Project Components:*
**Grazing management, Forage seeding**

*Project Description:*
Paul Chirpen used to farm right along the Long Creek. With his operation shifting to focus more on cattle, he decided to seed some of his creekside land to perennial cover. This additional 80 acres of forage, along with a mile and a half of electric fence will allow a permanent change in land use along the creek. By establishing a pasture along the creek, Paul has reduced sediment and nitrogen load for neighbors downstream.

## Trevor Debruyne

*R.M.:* **38**

*Project Components:*
**Forage seeding**

*Project Description:*
Cooperating with Pheasants Forever, Trevor Debruyne seeded 65 acres of tame forage along Long Creek downstream from the town of Radville. Perennial cover along creeks makes ideal pheasant habitat. With this additional pasture, Trevor will be able to both improve his grazing rotation and improve wildlife habitat.

# Long Creek Watershed

## Mark Pirio

*R.M.:* **38**

*Project Components:*
**Forage seeding**

*Project Description:*
Mark Pirio is a large grain farmer in the Radville area who decided to add forages to his operation. Mark seeded approximately 88 acres of cropland to forage on marginal land along the creek. Because he does not have cattle, Mark sells the hay off this land. The perennial forage along the creek acts as a filter for runoff from adjacent cropland and slows water down during flood events. While he is diversifying his farming operation, Mark is also providing clean water and wildlife habitat.

## Jim and Jean Doud

*R.M.:* **38**

*Project Components:*
**Grazing management, Forage seeding**

*Project Description:*
Jim and Jean Doud recently moved their commercial cow-calf operation to a new ranch in the Missouri Couteau in the Long Creek watershed. Cropland was seeded to tame forage and fenced. This newly established grazing system will allow the Dowds to defer grazing on their native grass and sensitive riparian areas. The Dowds are a good example of how whole ranch planning can include strategies to maintain the condition of riparian and native areas.

## Kent Pierce

*R.M.:* **38**

*Project Components:*
**Grazing management, Exclusion fencing, Forage seeding**

*Project Description:*
Kent Pierce runs a bison ranch along Long Creek upstream of the town of Radville. To develop his bison pasture, Kent seeded 230 acres of tame pasture and built 4.5 miles of seven strand electric fence. A 20 foot buffer strip between the bison fence and Long Creek protects water quality by filtering runoff from adjacent land. Ken's fencing development can be used to keep his pasture in good condition and therefore provide clean water and wildlife habitat.

## Garry Verhelst

*R.M.:* **39**

*Project Components:*
**Forage seeding**

*Project Description:*
Garry Verhelst runs a commercial cow-calf operation in the hills of the Missouri Coteau in the Long Creek watershed. He seeded 160 acres of tame pasture to allow deferment of his native grass. This management change was part of an overall plan for Garry to expand the cattle component of his farm.

## Laurier PFRA Pasture

*R.M.:* **37**

*Project Components:*
**Grazing management**

*Project Description:*
Roughbark Creek runs through the Laurier PFRA pasture before entering into Long Creek. Before the project was implemented, the creek was contained within one large pasture with both native and tame grass. A fence was constructed to separate the tame and native grass with portions of the creek being contained in each paddock. The tame grass is used in the spring, and the native grass later in the year, allowing the riparian area to be rested.

Roughbark Creek on the Laurier PFRA pasture

# Long Creek Watershed

## Carey and Roland Carles

*R.M.:* **39**

*Project Components:*
**Grazing management**

*Project Description:*
All sorts of grazing systems can be adapted to protect riparian areas. Carey and Roland Carles ranch near Long Creek using a "high intensity-short duration" grazing system. In this sort of grazing system a high density of cattle graze a paddock for a short period of time. The paddock is then left sufficient time to rest before being regrazed. Carey and Roland built an additional 3.5 miles of electric fence to implement this grazing system. By providing riparian areas with sufficient time to rest after grazing, the Carles' ranching will be both sustainable and profitable.

## Rudy Bjork

*R.M.:* **68**

*Project Components:*
**Forage seeding**

*Project Description:*
Rudy and Ingrid Bjork live just northwest of Radville. Long Creek, a tributary of the Souris river, runs through their cropland, and every spring when the flood waters rise, valuable cultivated land gets washed away. The Bjorks seeded 50 acres along the south side of the creek into tame hay. By keeping these strips in permanent cover, the Bjorks are helping to reduce soil sediments and chemical fertilizers from flowing down Long Creek, which eventually reaches the Boundary Dam near Estevan.

# Souris River Watershed

## HELP International

*Project Components:*
**Forage Seeding**

*Project Description:*
HELP International run by Rod Sidloski conducts community based work on the Souris River to improve water quality. Over 13 landowners have cooperated with Rod to establish buffer strips and shelterbelts along the Souris River. These buffer strips will help improve water quality and wildlife habitat along the Souris River. Local, community based organizations like HELP Int. are important to make the connection between communities and the quality of the land that support them.

Participating landowners included:

Angie Oust

Bryce Howell

Dale Hardy

Bob Daer

Curtis Clarke

Bernie Kot

Jerry Jordens

Ron Metheral

Dave Pulfer

Norm Flaten

R. Porter

Lyle Borys

Bret Borys

## Herbert Wiesener

*R.M.:* **126**

*Project Components:*
**Forage seeding**

*Project Description:*
Hubert Weisner undertook a riparian management project along Dry Lake near Montmartre. He seeded 80 acres of perennial forage along the lake. This increased perennial cover will improve runoff water quality and provide critical habitat for wildlife adjacent to the lake.

# Souris River Watershed

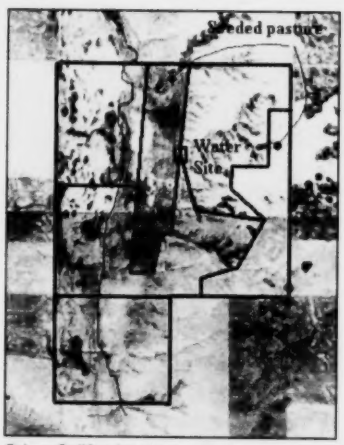
## Brian Callfas

*R.M.:* **125**

*Project Components:*
**Grazing management, Water development, Forage seeding**

*Project Description:*
Over 1.5 miles of Vipond Creek flows through Brian Callfas' farm near Glenavon. Brian's demonstration project involved seeding 135 acres of cropland to perennial cover, constructing three miles of fence, and installing a solar powered pumping unit. A portion of the land seeded to perennial cover was adjacent to Vipond Creek and now reduces erosion into the creek. With the installation of the solar pumping unit, Brian has been able to reduce pressure on his riparian areas by pumping water to a trough. The three miles of cross fence now allows Brian to rotationally graze his pastures and may also improve the health of his native prairie.

Vipond Creek on the Callfas demonstration project




Brian Callfas implemented a once over grazing system

# Pipestone Creek Watershed

## Ludger and Armand Poncelet

*R.M.:* **123**

*Project Components:*
**Grazing management, Water development**

*Project Description:*
Ludger and Armand Poncelet run the Snowpoint ranch south of Whitewood. Their farmyard overlooks the beautiful Pipestone valley which comprises a large portion of their pasture base. To provide flexibility in their grass management and maintain the condition of the creek, Ludger and Armand undertook a crossfencing project. Two miles of the valley was divided into five paddocks to facilitate rotational grazing. On a separate upland pasture, a solar water pump was installed to take grazing pressure off of wetlands and facilitate rotational grazing.

## Ryan Beierbach

*R.M.:* **123**

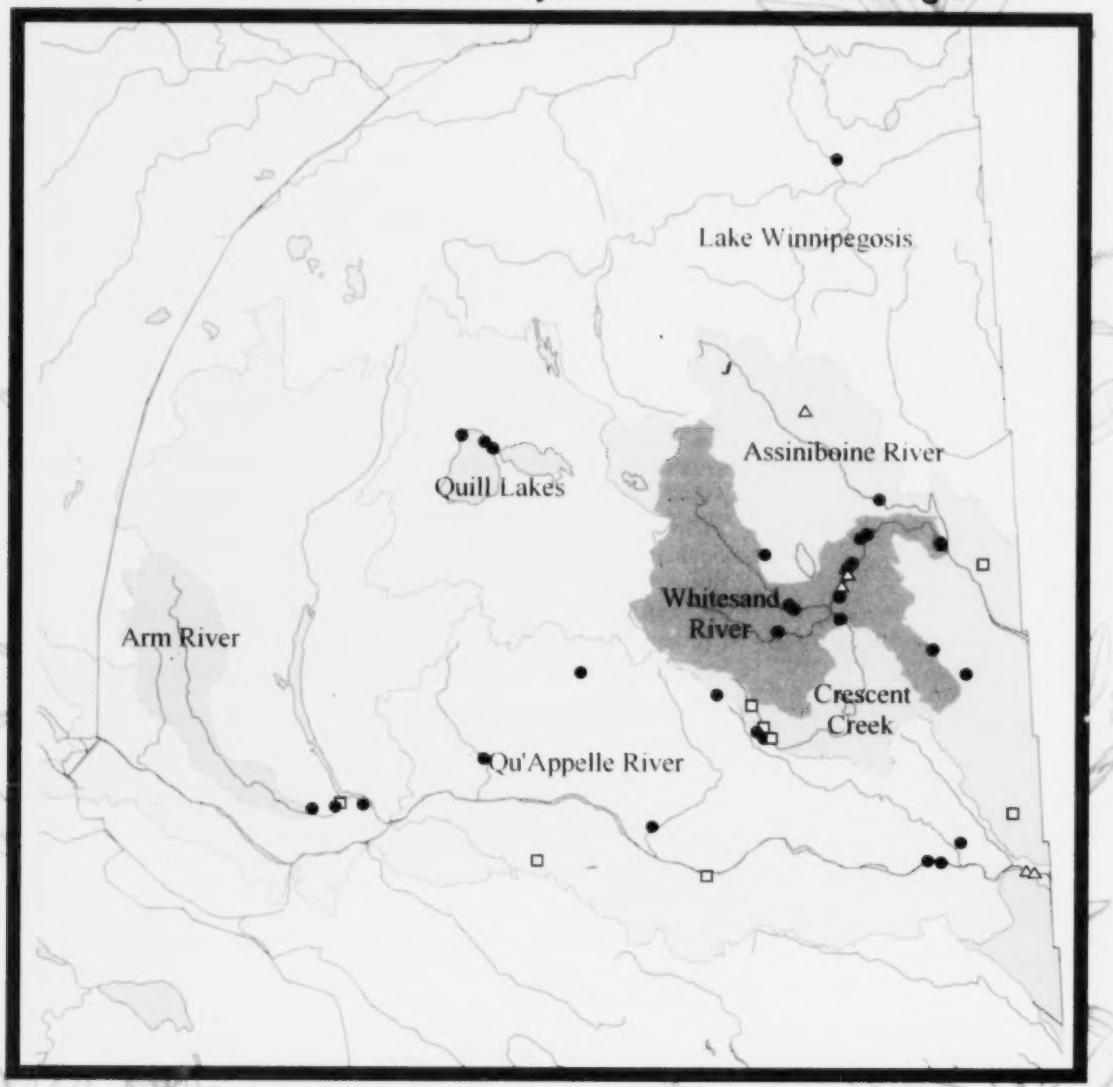
*Project Components:*
**Grazing management, Water development**

*Project Description:*
Originally from near Maple Creek, Ryan Beierbach moved to the Pipestone valley in 2002. To maintain riparian health and grass condition, Ryan adopted a deferred grazing system for his valley land. He seeded cropland above the valley to tame forage and uses this area as his spring and summer pasture. The native grass in the Pipestone valley is used as late summer and fall pasture. A remote watering system was developed for the upland pasture to protect wetland health and facilitate rotational grazing.

Field tour of Ryan Beierbach project on the Pipestone valley

# Northeast Region

Riparian Demonstration Projects in the Northeast region



## Souris River Watershed

### Brian Callfas

125

**Grazing management, Water development, Forage seeding**

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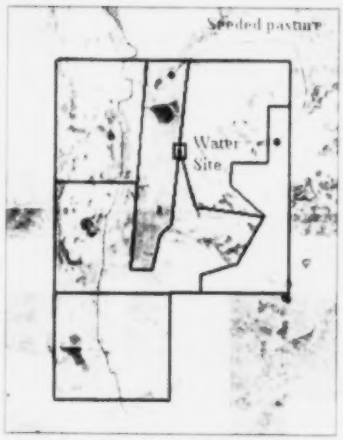
Vipond Creek on the Callfas demonstration project




Brian Callfas implemented a once over grazing system

## Pipestone Creek Watershed

### Ludger and Armand Poncelet

123

**Grazing management, Water development**

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### Ryan Beierbach

123

**Grazing management, Water development**

Originally from near Maple Creek, Ryan Beierbach moved to the Pipestone valley in 2002. To maintain riparian health and grass condition, Ryan adopted a deferred grazing system for his valley land. He seeded cropland above the valley to tame forage and uses this area as his spring and summer pasture. The native grass in the Pipestone valley is used as late summer and fall pasture. A remote watering system was developed for the upland pasture to protect wetland health and facilitate rotational grazing.

Field tour of Ryan Beierbach project on the Pipestone valley

# Northeast Region

Riparian Demonstration Projects in the Northeast region

# Arm River Watershed

## David Nicholson

*R.M.:* **189**

*Project Components:*
**Exclusion fencing,**
**Water development,**

*Project Description:*
David Nicholson runs approximately 30 head of cattle on a half section near Regina Beach. A spring fed creek in his pasture runs into Last Mountain Lake. David leases the pasture from the Nature Conservancy of Canada who received the land as a donation from George Colvin. A half mile of four strand fence restricts cattle access to the creek and splits the pasture in two. Using a solar powered watering system, David rotationally grazes his cattle. David plans to exclude grazing from the valley bottom and set up a second solar water system.

David Nicholson worked with several agencies to implement a riparian demonstration project

## Wade and Jaqueline Straub

*R.M.:* **222**

*Project Components:*
**Grazing management,**
**Water development**

*Project Description:*
Wade and Jackie Straub run a livestock operation near Aylesbury in south central Saskatchewan. One of their pastures includes a portion of the Arm River. A riparian field was created by fencing along the top of the valley. The valley is usually grazed after the middle of July. The upland pastures are provided water by two fenced alleyways down to the river. This kind of grazing rotation protects both riparian areas and associated native prairie on the Straub operation.

The Arm River flows through one of Wade and Jackie Staub's pastures

## Jack Glen

*R.M.:* **189**

*Project Components:*
**Forage seeding**

*Project Description:*
The Arm River feeds into Last Mountain Lake and is an important recreation area. Water quality from the Arm River is a major concern for cottage owners. Fortunately, landowners like Jack Glen are doing their part up stream to ensure good water quality. Jack seeded approximately 30 acres of forage adjacent to the Arm River. This perennial forage will allow a healthy riparian area to develop.

# Arm River Watershed

## Henry and Bill Seidlitz

*R.M.:* **190**

*Project Components:*
**Grazing management, Forage seeding**

*Project Description:*
Henry and Bill Seidlitz operate a mixed farm along the Arm River near where it enters Last Mountain Lake. This area is an important spawning area for northern pike. Henry and Bill implemented a rest rotation grazing system to protect this important habitat. A spring pasture allows deferral of grazing along the Arm River until mid-June. This allows time for fish spawning. Along the river, one paddock is left ungrazed each year to allow for complete recovery. This system has benefited the Seidlitzes by maintaining the condition of native grass and extending the grazing season. Henry and Bill were the 2001 TESA (The Environmental Stewardship Award) winners.

A rest-rotation grazing system was implemented on the Seidlitz pasture

## Alvey Halbgewachs

*R.M.:* **190**

*Project Components:*
**Buffer Seeding, Grazing management, Forage seeding**

*Project Description:*
Alvey Halbgewachs grazes 100 head of Hereford and Black Angus cattle on his 1600 acre farm north of Bethune along the Arm River. Eighty acres of cropland was seeded to alfalfa along an eroding riparian area and used for honey production. A spring pasture was seeded and cross fenced to allow his native grass to be deferred until summer. The additional pasture should allow Alvey to increase his herd size and pursue his love of wildlife.

# Crescent Creek Watershed

## Brian Reinson

*R.M.:* **215**

*Project Components:*
**Grazing management, Water development**

*Project Description:*
Over a half mile of Crescent Creek flows through Brian Reinson's land and empties into the Melville Reservoir. Brian has taken steps that will both minimize the impacts that his cattle have on water quality for users downstream and improve the health of his riparian areas. By developing a well in an abandoned gravel pit in his pasture, and by installing a solar pump, Brian can now push water up 40 feet and along 600 feet of pipeline at about 3 gallons per minute. Instead of watering directly out of Crescent Creek, his cattle now drink out of two 400 gallon troughs supplied by this versatile system. Brian has also built a fence to exclude his cattle from the creek.

## Bryan Halyk

*R.M.:* **215**

*Project Components:*
**Grazing management, Water development**

*Project Description:*
Brian Halyk farms close to the Crescent Creek near Melville. One of his pastures has a large piece of native prairie, one of the few left in this area. To develop a grazing system Brian seeded 220 acres of forage and constructed three miles of fence. Simply by having a rotational grazing system, Brian will maintain the condition of his grass and riparian areas for himself and the benefit of society at large.

# Crescent Creek Watershed

## Eric and Ed Sagan

*R.M.:* **215**

*Project Components:*
**Forage seeding**

*Project Description:*
Eric and Ed Sagan farm along the Crescent Creek. To help improve the water quality they decided to change practices on their land along the creek. They seeded a large acreage to alfalfa, from which they sell both hay and alfalfa seed. On a summer field tour in 2001, Ed expressed how proud he was to be involved in a project like this one which benefited both the farmer and wildlife.

Ed Sagan seeded alfalfa along the Crescent Creek

Remote water development was part of a pasture plan for Wayne Reinson

## Micheal Stelmacovich

*R.M.:* **215**

*Project Components:*
**Grazing management, Water development, Forage seeding**

*Project Description:*
When designing a grazing plan, the most important step is to balance forage supply and demand. In other words, the pasture base must support the amount of grazing needed. So when Michael Stelmacovich developed a demonstration grazing system along Crescent Creek, he decided to seed 110 acres of cropland down to tame pasture. By increasing his pasture base Michael can better balance the amount of grazing he needs with the amount of forage available. Of course more forage alone can't complete a pasture. Michael also constructed 0.75 miles of fence and developed a remote watering system. By implementing good pasture management, Michael is ensuring the sustainability of land and water for future generations.

## Wayne Reinson

*R.M.:* **215**

*Project Components:*
**Grazing management, Water development, Forage seeding**

*Project Description:*
A healthy riparian area will have abundant grass, trees and shrubs. Thick vegetation acts as a filter to clean water and runoff. Wayne Reinson did his part to maintain this filter along the Crescent Creek. He planted trees, seeded 150 acres of forage and implemented a rotational grazing system. A rotational grazing system tries to leave at least 50 percent of the vegetation behind. In Wayne's case, the 50 percent left behind will help ensure clean water and good grass growth for next year.

# Crescent Creek Watershed

## Brent and Garry Hahn

*R.M.:* **215**

*Project Components:*
**Grazing management, Water development, Forage seeding**

*Project Description:*
Brent Hahn farms and runs a cow-calf operation in the Melville area. Some of his farmland was located along the Melville Reservoir. This farmland was often depredated by geese and ducks from the reservoir, so Brent decided to seed the land to pasture. By adding some fence and a remote watering system, he permanently changed his land use along the reservoir. This has had a positive impact on water quality as erosion from farmland has been reduced.

## Garnet Hahn

*R.M.:* **215**

*Project Components:*
**Forage seeding**

*Project Description:*
Individual riparian improvement projects often impact only a small portion of creek or river. However, when you have enough projects on a watershed, they can add up to make a huge difference. Garnet Hahn joined his neighbors in Crescent Creek watershed and seeded 65 acres of forage along Crescent Creek. By seeding this land to perennial cover, Garnet is reducing soil erosion.

## Micheal Halyk

*R.M.:* **215**

*Project Components:*
**Buffer Seeding**

*Project Description:*
Michael Halyk of Melville seeded 160 acres of tame forage as buffer strips along the Crescent Creek to help improve water quality. While buffer strips can mean lost acres of production for a farmer, they can also help save money. Buffer strips can prevent the formation of rills and gullies, stopping soil erosion and maintaining yields. If a market can be found for the forage, buffer strips can also be an alternative source of revenue.

## Morris Feduk

*R.M.:* **275**

*Project Components:*
**Grazing management, Forage seeding**

*Project Description:*
Morris Feduk farms in the Melville area. He took an interest in the work being done along the Crescent Creek and decided to implement a riparian improvement project. Morris seeded down 50 acres of additional pasture, developed an alternate watering site and finished off with an additional two miles of fence.

## Bryan Stadnyk

*R.M.:* **275**

*Project Components:*
**Grazing management, Water development, Forage seeding**

*Project Description:*
Good riparian stewardship means that both the private landowner and society benefit from good management practices. This was the case for Brian Stadnyk. He seeded 35 acres of forage and developed a remote watering system for his pasture along Crescent Creek. While improving water quality and riparian habitat, Brian is also improving his pasture infrastructure and ultimately his bottom line.

# Qu'Appelle Watershed

## Duane and Cindy Bartok

*R.M.:* **183**

*Project Components:*
**Grazing management, Water development**

*Project Description:*
Duane and Cindy Bartok ranch along the Qu'Appelle River near Esterhazy. They installed four 30 foot portable windbreaks for the purpose of managing cattle activity on and near the river throughout the winter season. The mobility of these wintering facilities will allow the Bartoks to set up multiple wintering locations. Adopting these measures will decrease manure concentrations and improve nutrient management along the river banks of the Qu'Appelle.

## Art and Vaugh Crone

*R.M.:* **190**

*Project Components:*
**Grazing management, Water development**

*Project Description:*
Art and Vaughn Crone of Crone Farms Inc. run cattle along Buffalo Pound Lake near Moose Jaw. In times past, this lake was the only source of water for their livestock. They installed a solar watering system that will pump water to a trough located away from the shore. Not only will this improve the grazing distribution in their pasture, but it will also reduce erosion and the amount of manure entering the lake.

## Randy Piller

*R.M.:* **185**

*Project Components:*
**Grazing management, Water development**

*Project Description:*
Randy Piller farms along the Qu'Appelle River near Neudorf. He set up a demonstration project that would improve the condition of riparian areas on his land. Forty acres of cropland were seeded to perennial cover and will now provide early spring grazing. By constructing a mile and a half of cross fence and installing a solar watering system, Randy is able to implement a rotational grazing system that reserves his native prairie for fall grazing and also provides him with an optional late fall riparian paddock. Grazing riparian areas in the fall will allow vegetation to build up and trap sediment over the summer. Having a healthy riparian area will also provide habitat for wildlife and clean water for users downstream.

## Darwin and Rachel Dancsok

*R.M.:* **153**

*Project Components:*
**Grazing management, Water development**

*Project Description:*
Darwin and Rachel Dancsok ranch along the Qu'Appelle River near Esterhazy. They seeded 35 acres of cropland to tame pasture that they are now able to use for early spring grazing. A remote livestock watering site has been developed to provide cattle with an alternate water source, and one mile of electric fence was constructed to separate the riverbank into a riparian pasture that serves as an optional late fall paddock. Management practices like these will improve the condition of the riparian area, reduce erosion, and reduce manure entering the river. Darwin and Rachel are on a growing list of landowners in Saskatchewan who are taking steps to provide users downstream with good quality water.

## Ken and Sharon Piller

*R.M.:* **185**

*Project Components:*
**Grazing management, Water development**

*Project Description:*
Ken and Sharon Piller, along with their three sons, run a mixed farming operation in the Qu'Appelle River Valley. This river is one of the few places where the endangered bigmouth buffalo fish can be found. The Pillers set up a demonstration project that would help maintain good water quality in this important fish habitat. By seeding 60 acres of cultivated floodplain to perennial forage, and by creating a 15 acre buffer strip between their corn silage field and the river, the Pillers are helping reduce erosion, filter sediment before it reaches the river, and are providing fish spawning habitat in the grassy vegetation that grows along the streambank.

# Qu'Appelle Watershed

## John Karkoulas

*R.M.:* **189**

*Project Components:*
**Grazing management, Water development**

*Project Description:*
John Karkoulas, originally from Ontario, now lives and ranches in the Qu'Appelle River Valley. John chose the Qu'Appelle River valley because he thought it was the "most beautiful thing he had ever seen" and thought it was a shame to see the landscape being scarred by machinery. "Grass and cows, grass and cows... that's what the valley is for!", claims John. As a result, he, along with his partner and best friend Hazel Morris, have been sowing much of the valley bottom to grass to expand his pasture land base and increase his grazing rotation. John converted 100 acres of cultivated valley to permanent cover. This demonstration project will reduce erosion, filter sediment before it reaches the river, and provide grassy vegetation along the streambank for bigmouth buffalo fish spawning habitat.

## Dean McEwen

*R.M.:* **189**

*Project Components:*
**Grazing management, Water development**

*Project Description:*
Dean McEwen is the fourth generation to operate a mixed farm along Wascana Creek, a tributary of the Qu'Appelle River, where the endangered bigmouth buffalo fish can be found. The McEwen's 60 cow calf pairs rotationally graze both native and tame pastures. Dean purchased a solar watering system that allows him to pump water out of the creek thereby taking some grazing pressure off of the streambanks. Also, with a solar system he will be able to change the rotation through his pastures. For example, pastures that only held water early in the spring can now be grazed in late summer or fall with a reliable source of water. By keeping the streambank and prairie healthy, Dean McEwen is helping maintain good water quality which will provide benefits for the bigmouth buffalo fish.

## Anthony and Blake Kelly

*R.M.:* **151**

*Project Components:*
**Grazing management, Water development**

*Project Description:*
The Kelly farm is located in the Qu'Appelle Valley near Rocanville. Their project involved the diversion of a spring around livestock wintering facilities. Approximately 1300 feet of pipeline was buried to transport the spring water past the corral system and deposit it directly into the river. This project will protect the water quality by limiting the contamination of spring runoff.

## Cam and Sandy Taylor

*R.M.:* **185**

*Project Components:*
**Grazing management, Water development**

*Project Description:*
This project assisted with the development of one weeping spring for the purpose of managing cattle activity along the Qu'Appelle River. Previously, more than 600 acres of cropland had been seeded to permanent cover for grazing. As such, this paddock with the water development will be included in their rotational grazing system. The development of this watering site will reduce the cattle activity along the streambanks, thereby improving the riparian condition.

## May property / Wade and Marlene Forbes

*R.M.:* **191**

*Project Components:*
**Grazing management, Water development**

*Project Description:*
Wade and Marlene Forbes converted a half section along the Qu'Appelle River to permanent pasture. Their plan is to fall and winter graze this parcel as part of their rotation, which includes a 2-3 week occupation of the adjacent May Property owned by Nature Conservancy of Canada. A pipeline and solar pump on the May property provides a water source away from the river.

# Qu'Appelle Watershed

## Lyle Sandercock

*R.M.:* **218**

*Project Components:*
**Grazing management, Water development, Forage seeding**

*Project Description:*
Lyle Sandercock runs a mixed operation along the Loon Creek near Markinch. His pasture includes a mix of tame and native pasture along the valley of the Loon Creek. To improve his pasture system, Lyle seeded down 40 acres of pasture, built more crossfencing and developed two new water systems. One water system is a spring fed dugout which gravity feeds to a trough with a float switch. The other water system is a solar powered pump which pumps right from Loon Creek. Lyle's new grazing rotation will help him maintain the quality of Loon Creek and the precious native prairie surrounding it.

## Cory Noble

*R.M.:* **186**

*Project Components:*
**Grazing management, Forage seeding**

*Project Description:*
Cory Noble farms along the Pheasant Creek near Abernethy. Pheasant Creek runs through a large valley of bush and native prairie. This valley forms a large part of the pasture base for Corey's late season grazing. In order to better control distribution in the valley, Cory constructed some additional fence and seeded some adjacent cropland to grass. Cory's long term plan is to use portions of the valley for winter grazing. This strategy will eventually maintain the condition of this beautiful pasture and benefit him by reducing winter feeding costs.

A tour of Chico's yard in July 2002 left neighbors impressed at his ingenuity and hard work.

## George DeCorby

*R.M.:* **152**

*Project Components:*
**Corral modification**

*Project Description:*
George (Chico) DeCorby raises cattle along the Qu'Appelle River near Rocanville. His family has been on this farmsite since 1890's when they arrived with the French missionaries. Plentiful water was one of the reasons the DeCorby's were drawn to this farmsite. Spring fed streams flow from the Qu'Appelle Valley wall, through Chico's yard and into the Qu'Appelle. Because corrals were previously located along two of these spring fed streams, Chico was concerned about the impact on water quality for his family and livestock. Chico designed an innovative solution to tackle this problem. Weeping tile was installed at the source of the stream which feeds into a two inch pipe. Water from this source serves as house water and feeds energy free watering bowls. Cribs sunk near the sources of both creeks, collects all water and diverts it into an eight inch pipe. This pipe was buried eight feet underneath two sets of corrals which then drains below his farm yard into the natural creek bed.

# Qu'Appelle Watershed

## Jean DeCorby

*R.M.:* **152**

*Project Components:*
**Corral modification**

*Project Description:*
Jean DeCorby winters cattle in his farm yard on the north side of the Qu'Appelle valley near Rocanville. The Qu'Appelle valley in this area has many spring fed streams and one of these ran through Jean's wintering site. To improve water quality for downstream users and to improve his wintering facilities, Jean decided to relocate his corrals to a site west of his yard. Saskatchewan Agriculture, Food and Rural Revitalization provided help to pick a new location for corrals. Site selection was based on soils, topography and distance from the Qu'Applelle River to ensure protection of water quality. Jean's project is a large undertaking but it will provide the advantage of newer facilities and the opportunity to expand.

Studies have determined that livestock weight gains can be 20 percent higher on good quality water.

## J C Cattle Company

*R.M.:* **185**

*Project Components:*
**Forage seeding, Water development**

*Project Description:*
Jack Bender and Cam Taylor operate the J C Cattle Company near Woseley. In 2002 Jack and Cam undertook a riparian demonstration project to improve riparian condition and spawning habitat for the big mouth buffalo fish. Cropland in the on the Qu'Appelle flood plain was seeded to perennial cover and a remote watering system developed. By providing more forage, grazing pressure is removed from the river banks. This permanent cover can also act as spawning habitat during spring floods.

## Art Pask

*R.M.:* **187**

*Project Components:*
**Water development**

*Project Description:*
The Kapsovar Creek is a tributary of the Qu'Appelle River near Esterhazy. Along this creek Art Pask decided to implement a riparian demonstration project. He built a half mile of electric fence and a remote watering system. Art's project will likely lead to environmental improvements for downstream neighbors and economic benefits for himself.

## Daryl Epp

*R.M.:* **100**

*Project Components:*
**Grazing management, Exclusion fencing, Forage seeding**

*Project Description:*
Daryl Epp ranches near Avonlea, in the hills of the Missouri Coteau. One of his pastures is along Avonlea Creek which flows into the Moose Jaw River. Daryl seeded 160 acres of tame grass on a pasture away from the creek to defer grazing and constructed 1.5 miles of fence to allow deferral of riparian areas.

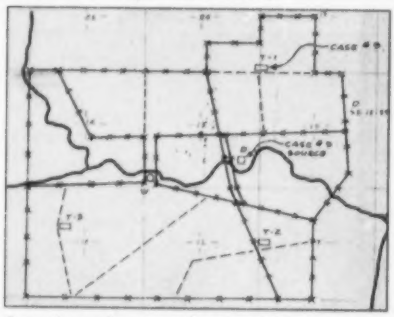
# Quill Lakes Watershed

## Wimmer Grazing Co-op

*R.M.:* **338**

*Project Components:*
**Grazing management, Buffer seeding, Forage seeding**

*Project Description:*
The Wimmer Grazing Co-op is located on the north shore of Big Quill Lake. In 1994 a deferred rest rotational grazing system was designed and implemented. The 3700 acre pasture was divided into 11 paddocks including a deferred riparian field along a three mile portion of Ironspring Creek. New fencing and water development was required. Three watering sites were established from a well using a shallow buried pipeline. In 2002, a new well was constructed and another three quarter miles of shallow buried pipeline was drenched in. The grazing system has resulted in improved production and health of riparian areas.



A pasture plan was developed for the Wimmer Grazing Co-op that included a 860 acre riparian field.

Water trough on the Elfros pasture

## R.M. Big Quill

*R.M.:* **308**

*Project Components:*
**Grazing management, Water development**

*Project Description:*
At the Big Quill Co-op Pasture, a large development plan was implemented to improve riparian condition. The pasture was divided into six fields. Three fields were upland pastures and three were riparian fields. These six fields required development of a well and a spring to provide new water sources. The management of this pasture is a particular challenge since soils are saline and have a low productivity. The approach taken by the community pasture is to graze upland pastures first and riparian pastures later in the year. This approach allows productivity to be maintained as well as important wildlife habitat.

A once over grazing system was implemented at the Elfros pasture

## R.M. of Elfros

*R.M.:* **307**

*Project Components:*
**Grazing management, Water development**

*Project Description:*
In 1996-1997 Ducks Unlimited, SWA and the R.M. of Elfros partnered to manage grazing on the Elfros pasture on Little Quill Lake. The pasture was expanded to include DU and SWA land and was subdivided into six fields. A once over rotational grazing system was implemented. The expanded land base allowed the Elfros pasture to keep its current carrying capacity while improving the overall condition of the pasture. Three new water sites were established, one from a floating pump, and two from a well and shallow buried pipeline.

Duck Hunting Creek flows through the Elfros pasture. Vegetative cover has significantly improved since the plan was initiated.

# Whitesand River Watershed

## Duane Thompson

*R.M.:* **247**

*Project Components:*
**Grazing management, Water development**

*Project Description:*
Duane Thompson operates the Tee Two Land and Cattle Co. along the Whitesand River. Duane was interested in remote watering sites that would benefit both his cattle and the Whitesand River. Duane tackled this problem by installing three miles of buried pipeline to establish four new watering sites. The shallow buried pipeline was installed using a home made pasture plow. The new water development services five upland and two riparian fields.

Duane Thompson explains a new water development on a field tour

## Al Claiter

*R.M.:* **244**

*Project Components:*
**Buffer seeding, Grazing management, Water development, Forage seeding**

*Project Description:*
A portion of York Creek (a tributary to the Whitesand River) flows through Al Claiter's farm near Yorkton. Al implemented a rotational grazing plan which involved seeding 60 acres of cropland to tame pasture, constructing fencing, and installing a remote watering system. Al also seeded a nine acre buffer strip adjacent to York Creek. This buffer strip will contribute to improved water quality downstream by reducing the amount of sediment entering the creek. Grazing was also excluded around a well which supplies water for the town of Ebenezer.

## Cote Indian Reserve

*R.M.:* **271**

*Project Components:*
**Grazing management, Exclusion fencing, Water development**

*Project Description:*
The Cote First Nation holds over 2000 acres of grazing lands, 1000 of which remains as native prairie. Over 3.25 miles of four-strand barbed wire fence was built to exclude cattle from portions of the Assiniboine and Whitesand Rivers. Along the Whitesand, a new water source was developed by installing a solar powered water pump on a well. In addition to decreasing foot rot in the herds that graze this pasture, this demonstration project serves to decrease soil erosion along the river shores, improve downstream water quality, and enhance fish and wildlife habitat.

## Dwayne and Judy Anderson

*R.M.:* **271**

*Project Components:*
**Exclusion fencing, Water development**

*Project Description:*
Dwayne and Judy Anderson of Kamsack farm along along the Little Boggy Creek which feeds into the Assinibione River. Dwayne decided to look at restricting cattle access to the creek but needed some sort of water development for his pasture. Dwayne developed a dugout with an access ramp and a channel to the creek. An additional riparian field is grazed after freeze up. Dwayne has been pleased with the results, seeing a huge improvement of the riparian condition along his creek.

Field tour participants inspect Dwayne Anderson's access ramp

# Whitesand River Watershed

## Dick and Dianne Coombs

*R.M.:* **214**

*Project Components:*
**Grazing management, Water development, Forage seeding**

*Project Description:*
Dick and Diane Coombs, recent transplants from British Columbia, farm in the Wroxton area east of Yorkton. The Coombs fenced off an 80 acre wetland from cattle grazing, installed a solar-powered watering system, constructed a rock and gravel laneway for cattle to cross marshy areas, and converted some cropland to permanent cover. Keeping cattle out of the wetland means fewer problems with animals getting stuck in the mud and cleaner water for drinking, which can produce benefits such as less hoof rot, and better weight gains on calves. This demonstration project also serves to increase the nesting success of waterfowl using the wetland.

Field tour participants view the results of Tom Lamont's riparian project

## Tom Lamont

*R.M.:* **273**

*Project Components:*
**Grazing management, Water development**

*Project Description:*
Tom Lamont farms along the Whitesand River near Canora. Tom decided that to maintain the condition of his riparian area he wanted to defer grazing along the river. There were many ways he could have approached this problem, but he settled on a combination of fencing and water development. He installed an extra water bowl near his yard to act as a water source for two new pastures. A half mile of fence divided his pasture into three fields, one of which was along the Whitesand River. By deferring grazing along the river until later in the year Tom is improving water quality and fish habitat for downstream users.

Whitesand River near Carey Weinbender's

## Carey & Leanne Weinbender

*R.M.:* **273**

*Project Components:*
**Grazing management, Water development, Forage seeding**

*Project Description:*
Four generations of the Weinbender family live and farm along the Whitesand River near Canora. Third generation Carey Weinbender remembers fishing as a kid in the river and marvelling at how clear the water was. Now Carey and his wife Leanne are taking steps to ensure that their three children will be able to enjoy the river as they have. Carey has modified his grazing practices to ensure that his stretch of river stays in good condition. This has meant seeding tame pasture to increase his pasture base, crossfencing to allow rotational grazing, and three remote watering systems to reduce pressure on the banks.

# Whitesand River Watershed

## Ward Manahan

*R.M.:* **274**

*Project Components:*
**Buffer seeding,**
**Grazing management,**
**Water development,**
**Forage seeding**

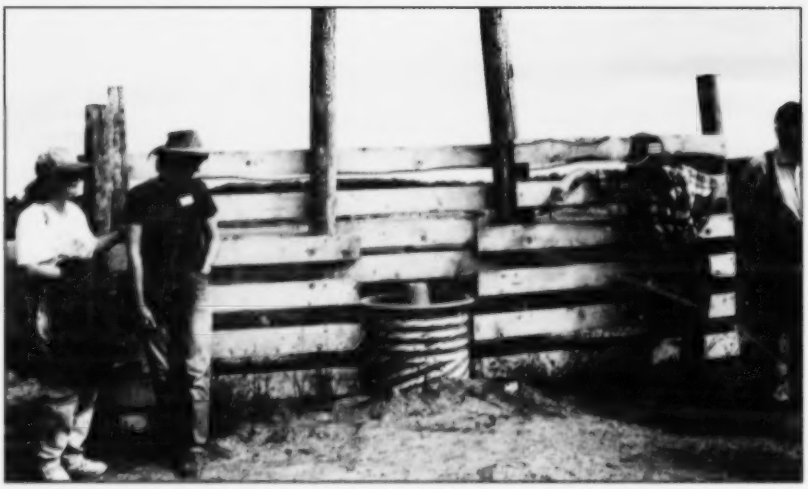
*Project Description:*
A portion of the Whitesand River flows through Ward Manahan's land near Canora. Ward improved the condition of his riparian areas by seeding 20 acres of buffer strips adjacent to the river, which will reduce erosion and trap sediment. A rotational grazing system that required seeding 40 acres of cropland to pasture, installing a remote watering system, and constructing 2.5 miles of fencing will also help to improve the riparian area by reducing trampling and overgrazing.

## Ivan and Phyllis Olynyk

*R.M.:* **274**

*Project Components:*
**Buffer seeding,**
**Grazing management,**
**Water development,**
**Forage seeding**

*Project Description:*
Ivan and Phyllis Olynyk's intensive livestock operation is adjacent to a tributary of the Whitesand Creek. Ivan relocated his wintering grounds to an upland area away from the tributary and a fence now restricts cattle access to the stream. He controls manure runoff from the wintering grounds with buffer strips and a berm. A remote watering system and restricted cattle access to the tributary will improve the condition of the riparian area.



Tour participants view a new water development on the Wasylyshen farm

## Brian Berns

*R.M.:* **274**

*Project Components:*
**Grazing management**

*Project Description:*
Brian Berns farms along the Whitesand River north of Springside. He developed a riparian management plan that would benefit both his cattle operation and the river. First, Brian built a low level cattle crossing that would create better grazing distribution by allowing access to pasture on either side of the river. A remote watering site was added to take pressure off of the river banks and some additional fencing increased the grazing rotation. The benefits of Brian's good management will be enjoyed by downstream users in the form of cleaner water.

## Don Wasylyshen

*R.M.:* **274**

*Project Components:*
**Grazing management, Water development**

*Project Description:*
Don Wasylyshen traditionally wintered his cattle along the Whitesand River near Canora. Don implemented some management changes by installing a winter watering system which allows him to take pressure off the banks of the river. He then implemented a rotational grazing system which will allow the riparian area along the river to remain healthy. A half section of cropland away from the creek was seeded to grass. This new pasture is used during the summer for grazing rather than the land along the river. The land along the river is then grazed during the fall when damage to the banks is minimized.

# Whitesand River Watershed

## Jim, Richard and Clint Kopelchuck

*R.M.:* **274**

*Project Components:*
**Corral modification**

*Project Description:*
Jim, Richard and Clint Kopelchuk operate a grain and livestock operation along the banks of the Whitesand River south of Canora. A herd of 85 cows and calves were wintered along the river next to a major highway. The Kopelchuks wanted to keep pollution out of the river and get away from having to cross the highway to feed. The solution they came up with was to establish a new wintering area. To do so, they constructed a pole shed and corrals, planted two shelterbelts and deepened a 12 foot well to 30 feet. Their new wintering area now provides more shelter and a reliable source of water.

Clint Kopelchuck explains his watering project during a radio interview

## Doug Lapitsky

*R.M.:* **273**

*Project Components:*
**Water development**

*Project Description:*
Doug Lapitsky grazes cattle along the Whitesand River near Mikado. To implement a riparian management plan, Doug installed fencing along the river and developed a remote watering site. The riparian area will be grazed late in the season probably in August or September. By deferring his grazing until late in the season Doug will be preserving fish habitat and water quality for downstream users.

## Tom Walsh

*R.M.:* **274**

*Project Components:*
**Water development**

*Project Description:*
Tom Walsh grazes cattle along McQuat Lake north of Yorkton. The lake is both important waterfowl and fish habitat. Tom constructed fencing to restrict cattle access to the lake and installed a remote watering system. Tom can expect production benefits from this pasture development. Providing a remote water site can lead to higher quality water and reduced foot rot.

## Joyce and Leonard Benfield

*R.M.:* **274**

*Project Components:*
**Water development**

*Project Description:*
Joyce and Leonard Benfield graze cattle along Cussed Creek west of Yorkton. The Cussed Creek drains from the Springside marsh and eventually ends up in the Whitesand River. The Benfields constructed five and a half miles of two strand electric fence. The fencing divides the pasture into five paddocks for rotational grazing. One paddock with native grass and another with the stream act as late season pasture. A new well is used for providing offsite water. Some newly seeded tame pasture will act as an early spring pasture.

# Assiniboine River Watershed

## Dirk and Maria Van As

*R.M.:* **303**

*Project Components:*
**Grazing management,**
**Exclusion fencing,**
**Water development**

*Project Description:*
Dirk Van As recently moved to the Canora area from Alberta and runs a cow-calf operation along the Assinibione River. Wanting to set up his operation the right way from the beginning, Dirk designed a grazing management plan which would protect riparian areas along the river and continue to provide clean water and fish habitat for downstream users. Two and a half miles of fence were used to restrict cattle access to the river banks and facilitate rotational grazing.

## Murray Bowes

*R.M.:* **271**

*Project Components:*
**Water development,**
**Grazing management**

*Project Description:*
Murray Bowes grazes cattle along the Assiniboine River near Kamsack. The banks of the Assinibione River at this location is important spawning habitat for fish. To reduce cattle impact on spawning habitat, Murray fenced a dugout and installed a solar powered watering system. The water system will pump water to a trough and will reduce watering pressure on the banks of the river.

## Dave Hrebeniuk

*R.M.:* **394**

*Project Components:*
**Grazing management,**
**Exclusion fencing,**
**Water development,**
**Corral Modification**

*Project Description:*
Dave Hrebeniuk operates a mixed farm a few kilometres north of Hudson Bay along the Fir River. On 2000 acres he raises 70 head of Gelhvieh-Simmental cattle and grows alfalfa, wheat barley and canola. Cattle were originally wintered right along the river bank because it was a convenient location. In order to protect the streambank and water quality, Dave moved half a mile of fence to restrict cattle access to the bank. New wintering facilities were constructed including corrals, shelter, a water bowl, a well and a pumphouse. Dave now enjoys the convenience of new facilities and improved water quality.

## Harvey Lowe

*R.M.:* **334**

*Project Components:*
**Grazing management,**
**Water development**

*Project Description:*
Wayne and Harvey Lowe run a 2500 acre operation north of Preeceville. They have taken steps to prevent manure produced by their 200 cows from reaching their aquifer and the Lillian River that borders their farm. In addition to relocating their watering site away from the streambank, the Lowes also fenced off their stream, well site, and new holding pond. Fencing off the streambank will not only improve the condition of riparian vegetation, but it will also reduce nitrate and fecal coliform levels in the water which indicate poor water quality. By fencing off their well site, the Lowes are reducing the chances that manure could contaminate their aquifer, and their new holding pond will capture cattle manure run-off produced by their wintering cattle before it reaches the river.

# Assiniboine River Watershed

## Alan Thomas

*R.M.:* **243**

*Project Components:*
**Grazing management, Water development**

*Project Description:*
Alan Thomas has pasture east of Yorkton in rolling pothole country. This area is highly productive waterfowl habitat and also part of the upper Assiniboine River drainage. To help maintain the integrity of wetlands in this important area, Alan implemented a rotational grazing system. His system included a shallow buried pipeline to deliver water to remote paddocks. Alan will benefit from this project through improved grass management.

## Robin Hogberg

*R.M.:* **181**

*Project Components:*
**Forage seeding**

*Project Description:*
The Upper Assinibione watershed has received a lot of attention in recent years after the excessive flooding which took place during the mid-90s. Robin Hogberg of Langenburg farms along Deerhorn Creek in the Upper Assinibione watershed. Robin converted approximately 40 acres of cropland to forage along the creek. Converting this land to forage will have benefits for both Robin and downstream users. Converting water affected areas into forage can reduce the spread of salinity into cropland. Perennial vegetation along the stream will also act as a filter removing sediment load and nutrients for downstream users.

## Dale and Ryan McAuley

*R.M.:* **121**

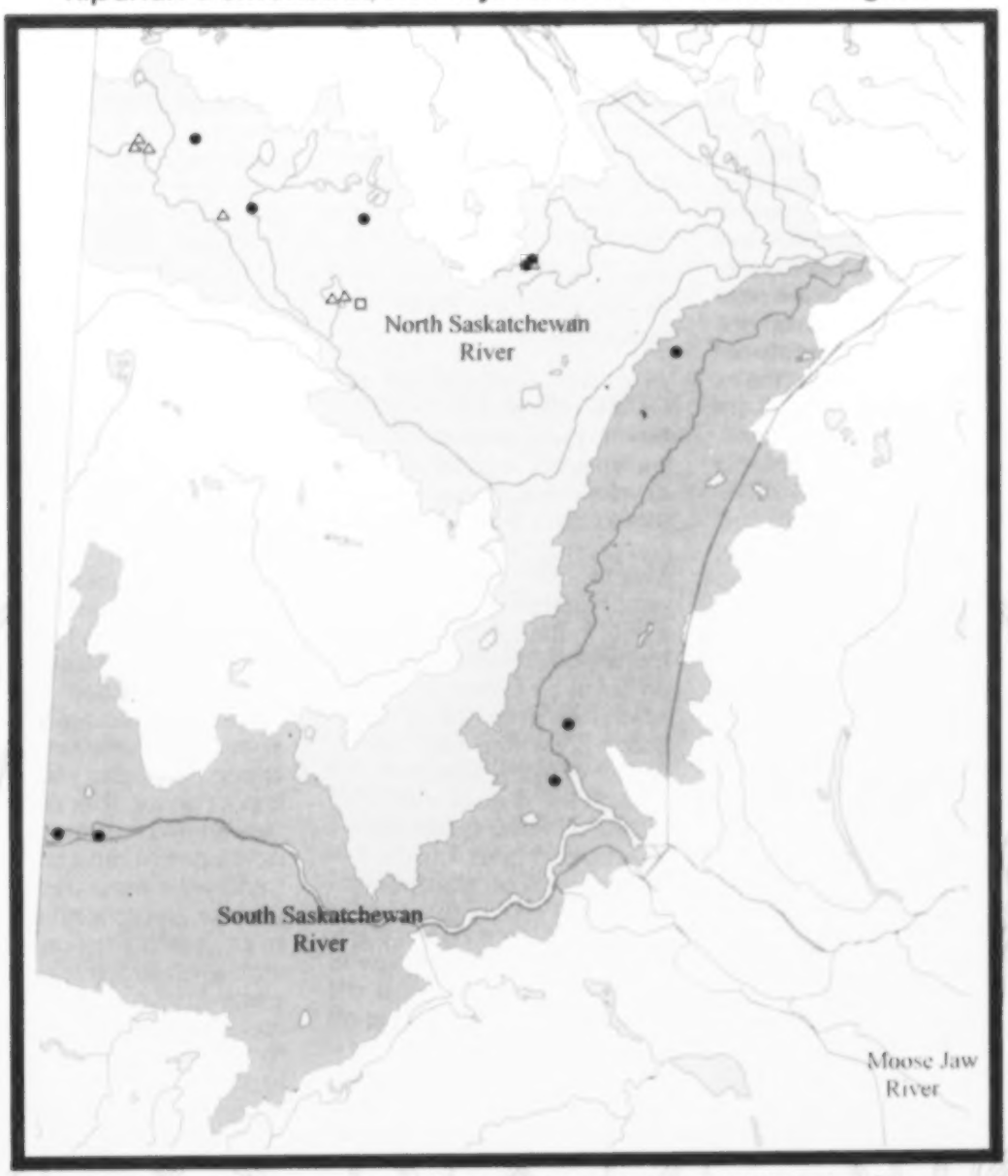
*Project Components:*
**Grazing management, Water development, Forage seeding**

*Project Description:*
Dale and Ryan McAuley operate a mixed farm near Welwyn on the Manitoba border. Due to their expanding cattle herd, the McAuley's recently bought a half section of farmland situated on Hotonka Creek. As he developed the land into pasture, Dale decided that he wanted to "do things right", so he consulted with Saskatchewan Agriculture, Food and Rural Revitalization and SWA for advice. Dale developed a grazing rotation which will protect his creek while optimizing production. The creek is contained in pasture through the center of the half. Cattle graze this area briefly in the summer allowing time for vegetation to regrow. The remainder of the pasture is split into five paddocks though which the cattle are rotated in a twice over system.

Dale has become an avid spokesman for water quality to his community and the surrounding area

# Northwest Region

Riparian Demonstration Projects in the Northwest region



# Northwest Region

## Riparian Demonstration Projects in the Northwest region

# North Saskatchewan River Watershed

## Ron Schlekewy

*R.M.:* **501**

*Project Description:*
Ron and Cindy Schlekewy raise cattle near St. Wahlburg with approximately 200 cows on 15 quarters with a 26 field rotation. Concerned with drought and cattle health, Ron implemented water development projects. First Ron laid 6000 feet of shallow buried pipeline from a dugout to deliver water to several pastures. Next, Ron built a portable watering system that could be moved from pasture to pasture. A 6000 gallon tank was mounted on a trailer with a trough attached on the rear. A float system keeps the trough full and cattle seem to preferentially drink from the trough. In addition to drought proofing his water supply, Ron has reduced his impact on adjacent water bodies such as Glenbogie Creek and Half Moon Lake.

## Alex Mitchel

*R.M.:* **472**

*Project Components:*
**Grazing management**

*Project Description:*
Alex Mitchell runs the Battle River Ranch north of Marsden. A seasonal creek in their pasture runs into the Battle River. In 1994, the creek was fenced into a paddock separate from the adjoining pastures. This riparian field is usually deferred until late July and has resulted in improved forage production. While he is providing rest to his grass, Alex is also providing rest to his creek. Maintaining a healthy riparian area means clean water and wildlife habitat for everyone in the watershed.

Cattle drink from Ron's portable watering system

## Scott Harland

*R.M.:* **501**

*Project Components:*
**Exclusion fencing, Water development**

*Project Description:*
On the Little Willow Creek Ranch, Scott Harland implemented a water development project which should both reduce labour and produce downstream benefits. In the past, cattle were watered in the winter by a hole in the ice of a dugout. The dugout is located in the center of an ephemeral stream which runs every spring. This system presented both the danger of losing animals through the dugout and impact on water quality for downstream users. As an alternative, Scott trenched a two inch line from the dugout to a false well 150 feet away from the dugout. Water is pumped by a submersible pump to a large tire trough which is kept open by a heater. With restricted cattle impact along the creek, the Harlands are well on their way to protecting water sources for both themselves and downstream users.

## Stewart McMurphy

*R.M.:* **499**

*Project Components:*
**Grazing management, Water development**

*Project Description:*
Stewart McMurphy's farmsite is located along the Turtle River just outside the town of Turtleford. Stewart winters cattle in a pasture along the river and uses the river as a winter water source. To eliminate the labour of chopping ice and reduce his impact on the river banks, Stewart implemented a water development project. He trenched a water line from his yardsite, underneath a railbed to an upland site removed from the river banks. Power was available nearby and some fencing was added to allow for rotational summer grazing. By moving his feeding activities further away from the Turtle River, Stewart is demonstrating good stewardship of water and land resources.

# North Saskatchewan River Watershed

## Tom Houghham

*R.M.:* **501**

*Project Components:*
**Exclusion fencing, Water development,**

*Project Description:*
The Y-Coulee Land and Cattle Company is located along the banks of the North Saskatchewan River outside of Frenchmen Butte. Cattle are wintered in the hills and bush adjacent to the river. Bob, Tom, and Ken Hougham used to use a flowing spring to water cattle during this time of year. The spring is located in small patch of muskeg and excessive cattle use was beginning to impact water quality. Ultimately the solution was to develop the spring and use a gravity flow water system. Weeping tile was installed in the spring and water was gravity fed to an 800 gallon rubber tire trough. Water flows out of the trough through another pipe and is released down a coulee. The constant flow of water means the trough doesn't freeze. Protecting their winter water source has meant benefits both for the Houghams and downstream users.

## Aaron and Leon Hougham

*R.M.:* **501**

*Project Components:*
**Water development**

*Project Description:*
Aaron and Leon Hougham run a mixed operation on the south side of the North Saskatchewan River near Frenchmen Butte. To avoid impacting water quality in the North Saskatchewan, the Houghams developed a winter watering site. Not only does this site eliminate the daily job of chopping ice to provide water, but also protects water quality for themselves and neighbors downstream.

## Joe Hoffman

*R.M.:* **501**

*Project Components:*
**Water development**

*Project Description:*
Joe and Agnes Hoffman run 20 head of cattle and custom graze about 100 pairs along the Englishman River. Cattle usually watered from the river in the summer but a series of dry summers convinced Joe that an alternative source was required. On the far east of the pasture Joe found a spring and developed it as an alternative water source. He sunk a 12 foot culvert into the spring and ran a buried line downhill to a water trough. The trough overflows into a boggy area further downhill. While he has established a reliable water supply for himself, Joe has also reduced the amount of cattle activity along the river and improved riparian health.

## Darrel Siklinka

*R.M.:* **498**

*Project Components:*
**Grazing management, Water development**

*Project Description:*
Darrel Siklinka farms north of Glaslyn. In cooperation, with the Stewards of Jackfish and Murray Lakes, Darrel initiated a project to protect the water quality of Loon Lake. The lake was fenced off and Darrel's pasture was divided into four paddocks for rotational grazing. A shallow pipe line was installed to provide water to each of the paddocks. With this system, water quality and fish habitat is protected for recreational users of the lake.

## Linda and Dave Caswell

*R.M.:* **496**

*Project Components:*
**Corral modification**

*Project Description:*
Linda and Dave Caswell run a cattle operation on the south end of Big Shell Lake. They spent several years attempting to find a wintering site that would not drain into the lake and so eventually settled on a corral modification plan. Linda and Dave moved their corrals, constructed earthworks to divert surrounding runoff from entering their corrals and constructed a secure retention pond where the runoff from the corrals can evaporate instead of impacting the lake. This project was conducted with the assistance of the Big Shell Lake Watershed Stewardship Association.

# North Saskatchewan River Watershed

## Lloyd and Brent Brewer

*R.M.:* **496**

*Project Components:*
**Water development**

*Project Description:*
Lloyd and Brent Brewer graze pasture on the west side of Big Shell Lake. Cattle usually drink from sloughs away from the lake, but later in the year use the lake as a water source. To reduce cattle impact on the lake, the Brewers built a dugout and installed a solar powered water pump. The remote water development provides a reliable water source throughout the summer and cattle activity on the lakeshore is down considerably. Lloyd and Brent also graze pasture along Big Stone Creek which flows into Big Shell Lake. In this pasture they used electric fence to create several paddocks and a solar power pump to provide an alternate water source. These projects were conducted with the assistance of the Big Shell Lake Watershed Stewardship Association.

Stewardship groups like the Stewards of Jackfish and Murray Lake conduct water quality testing and support landowner riparian projects

## Jim Palendat

*R.M.:* **496**

*Project Components:*
**Water development**

*Project Description:*
Jim Palendat farms along Big Stone Creek west of Big Shell Lake. To protect water quality, Jim developed a alternate water supply for his livestock and fenced off access to creek. A dugout was built that could be pumped full from adjacent sloughs each year. A solar powered pump was installed for summer use and a false well for winter use. The project now waters 500 ewes and 60 sows. This project was conducted with the assistance of the Big Shell Lake Watershed Stewardship Association.

## Doug Tucker and Randy St. Marie

*R.M.:* **468**

*Project Components:*
**Water development**

*Project Description:*
Doug Tucker and Randy St. Marie winter cows along Lost Horse Creek which flows into Murray Lake. To protect water quality in the creek, a fence was built restricting cattle access. A graveled ramp was installed that allowed watering at one location on the creek. This project was conducted with the assistance of the Stewards of Jackfish and Murray Lakes.

## A & J Enterprises

*R.M.:* **468**

*Project Components:*
**Corral modification**

*Project Description:*
A & J Enterprises winter cattle along Lehman Creek which flows into the east side of Jackfish Lake. To protect water quality, a fence was built restricting cattle access to the creek. An alternate source of water was provided by trenching in a new waterbowl from the corrals. This project was conducted with the assistance of the Stewards of Jackfish and Murray Lakes.

## Gordon Day

*R.M.:* **468**

*Project Components:*
**Grazing management**

*Project Description:*
Gordon Day pastures cattle near the west shore of Murray Lake. Cattle usually water out of a dugout but occasionally wander down to the lake shore. Gordon upgraded an existing fence which would prevent cattle from escaping to the lake. This project was conducted with the assistance of the Stewards of Jackfish and Murray Lakes.

*stewardship involves working together*
*to maintain healthy ecosystems*